UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO - CIVICS LITERACY INITIATIVE
WARNING!
This presentation contains disturbing content concerning the possible future of our democracy
% of people who can name the three branches of government

- Know one branch: 27%
- Know two branches: 13%
- Know all three branches: 26%
- Do not know any branches: 33%
- Refused: 1%

Source: Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey, August 9-13, 2017. Annenberg Public Policy Center
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of religion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of speech</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of the press</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of assembly</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to petition</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t name any/Don’t know</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Open-ended question followed by prompts for additional responses. Source: Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey, August 9-13, 2017. Annenberg Public Policy Center*
Only 19% of test-takers 45 and younger would pass a basic multiple choice test modeled on the U.S. Citizenship test.

Why does the flag have 13 stripes

What are the three branches of government

Who did the U.S. fight in WW II

WOODROW WILSON NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION SURVEY OF 1,000 INDIVIDUALS
RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DAVID SOUTER
DANGERS OF CIVIC IGNORANCE

Click here to play video
Friends and fellow Americans,

Not long after I retired from the Supreme Court twelve years ago, I made a commitment to myself, my family, and my country that I would use whatever years I have left to advance civic learning and engagement.

I can no longer help lead this cause due to my physical condition. It is time for new leaders to make civic learning and civic engagement a reality for all. It is my great hope that our nation will commit to educating our youth about civics, and to helping young people understand their crucial role as informed, active citizens in our nation.

Sandra Day O’Connor
Phoenix, Arizona, October 23, 2018
“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.” Ronald Reagan
Faculty across all of our campuses share the Regents’ concern for the state of civics literacy in our country and are certainly willing to consider ways that the University of Colorado might better prepare students to be informed and engaged members of our democracy.

Joanne Addison, Chair of CU Faculty Council – December 1, 2018 memo to Board of Regents University Affairs Committee
We share the Regents’ concern about a lack of civics literacy among the broader US population and believe that it is in the interest of the university to ensure its students are exposed to this topic.

CU Denver Faculty Assembly
November 2018 memo to Joanne Addison
A considerable variety of ideas and opinions was expressed on these occasions. At the same time, there was a general consensus that the regents’ University Affairs Committee is right to be concerned that there is a widespread need for greater civics literacy. Furthermore, more than a few members of the Boulder faculty are interested in finding ways – as long as they are consistent with our educational mission and pedagogical standards – to address the problem.

Bob Ferry, Chair, Boulder Faculty Assembly—11/21/18 memo to Michael Lightner
Develop civics certificates on the campuses by Fall 2019

Utilize the Regents’ Online Initiative to develop civics courses for high school concurrent enrollment

Direct the Administration to assess the civics knowledge of 2019 entering freshmen and consider a civics component in CU’s MAPS

Request proposals and funding estimates from the campuses for civics minors, majors, departments, institutes, or programs by May 8. University Affairs will recommend funding to the BOR by May 22

CU will take lead role in Colorado’s celebration and marketing of the 250th Anniversary of the founding

CU’S CIVICS LITERACY INITIATIVE
2026
250 YEARS - SEMIQUINNCESENTENNIAL