



Supporting ELs / MLs in iCivics Games

About Our EL Supports

This guide was created to offer tips for instructors of English / multilingual learners to utilize our games and Extension Packs and take advantage of the supports built into the games. There are also game-specific tips in our Extension Packs. The following supports are built into each of our games:

- Option to play in English or Spanish
- English-language voiceover
- Embedded and printable content guides for students in English and Spanish
- Embedded glossary
- Embedded gameplay scaffolds
- Accompanying Extension Packs with suggested modifications for ELs / MLs

ELL Tips for Success:

- **Utilize** sentence starters and graphic organizers to support oral and written activities.
- **Allow** students access to translation (such as electronic dictionaries) at all points in the lesson.
- **Pair** students in heterogeneous native English speaker/English language learner or mixed-ability groups to work through the game and activities.
- **Encourage** students who share a language to process new information and ideas together in their native language and in English.
- **Allow** students to orally receive information and answer in addition to, or as an alternative to, crafting a written product.

Before You Begin

- **Explore** the embedded supports for language learners in the game.
- **Familiarize** yourself with the ELL extensions and supports included in the Extension Packs. Decide which are most appropriate for your students.

Game

To support language learners, consider demonstrating gameplay as students watch, using your interactive whiteboard. See the Game Guide and Extension Pack for more information on how to navigate the game.

- **Allow** students to play in pairs or small groups. If possible, place them in mixed-ability groups. While advanced students can play by themselves, we recommend partner play for increased speaking and listening opportunities.
- **Encourage** the use of the game's reference materials for support.

[Click here for a list of our EL supported games and resources](#)



Academic Vocabulary Building

Supporting language learners in vocabulary development is key, so we've provided additional activities to help students master specific Tier II and III vocabulary in each game-specific Extension Pack. Students can complete these activities at any point in the lesson plan. You can find the specific activities after the Mini Quiz.

- **Have** students work in pairs or small groups to complete your choice of vocabulary activities.
- **Provide** students with a brief list of words that you want them to know and practice. Use the Glossary of Game Terms in the Extension Pack as a reference.
- **Have** volunteers share their graphic organizers and illustrations with the class.

For English proficiency adjustments, consider these tips:

- For students at the entering, emerging, and developing levels, build choral repetition and explicit pronunciation practice for vocabulary into the lesson.

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Have students say and write words and phrases. Encourage them to illustrate vocabulary.	Have students write brief sentences and illustrate them. Provide sentence starters as needed.	Encourage students to correctly use words in conversation by asking them to "teach" several of their words to another student.

Mini Lesson

Each game's primary objective is to help students explore civic concepts. To support understanding for ELLs, consider these tips:

Understanding civic concepts in the U.S. may be new to students. As you build context, consider:

- L1 Heritage Connections - **Ask** students to share the terms that are relevant to the game in their native language. Discuss any similarities or cognates.
- Cultural Comparisons - **Have** students compare what relevant content is like in their country of origin to the U.S., if appropriate. (For example: presidential elections, types and names of political parties, role of the media, structure of court systems, local government, etc.)
- Visuals - **Go** online and find photos related to the concepts presented and have students make notes or talk about the images.

Introducing a large amount of content like all 27 amendments or the role and responsibilities of all three branches of government at one time can be overwhelming. We recommend:

- Limiting the amount of slides from the Extension Pack you teach in a single day. Show only a few slides at a time.
- After introducing a few slides, have pairs of students ask and answer questions about them. Provide sentence frames for support.