



DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL  
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DEXTER, MI 48130

William Moran  
Principal  
734-424-4240 X7001

April 18, 2007

Ms. Shirk:

Please place this request for textbooks for Dexter High School on the board agenda for the next meeting. We will be asking for approval for *The Challenge of Democracy* to use in AP Government and *Psychology: Principles in Practice* to use in Psychology.

Professionally yours,

**William C. Moran**

William C. Moran  
Principal  
Dexter High School

**TEXTBOOK REVIEW CRITERIA**  
**Dexter Community Schools**

<b>Title of Text:</b> The Challenge of Democracy	<b>Date:</b> March 15, 2006
<b>Copyright Date:</b> 2005	<b>Reviewed for Grade(s) and/or Course:</b> AP US Government and Politics
<b>ISBN:</b> 0-618-57410-7	<b>Cost per text:</b> \$79.17/ <b>Study Guide:</b> \$25.77 <b>Number of copies needed:</b> 30 (or 60, depending upon # of sections)
<b>Publisher:</b> McDougal Littell	<b>Address:</b> P.O. Box 1667 Evanston, IL 60204

Please review the text and make a numbered list of the following information:

1. Does the content align with the Michigan Curriculum Framework, GLCE's and the district curriculum?

The Michigan GLCEs are currently in transition. However, the textbook aligns with the previous (2004) benchmarks. It discusses the federal system of government, the benefits and challenges of diversity in American life, the foundational documents (to evaluate political behavior of citizens and the practices of government), the effectiveness and lasting effects of civil and criminal courts in the United States through actual cases, separation of powers and the tension between the branches of government, and foreign policy positions in light of national interests and American core democratic values. A more important question is whether or not the textbook meets the guidelines established by the College Board for advanced placement government, which it does.

2. Is the information up-to-date and accurate?

Yes, the information is up-to-date and accurate. Unless historical, all examples are recent and the charts and graphs primarily include data from 2000 or more recently. To the best of my knowledge the information is accurate. The sections I have read are, and until the textbook is taught (or read from cover to cover) the answer must be based on selected segments throughout the textbook.

3. Is the reading level appropriate for the users?

Because it is an AP text, the reading level is more sophisticated than most high school textbooks. It is geared toward students who are hoping to earn college credit for the class.

4. Does it address the various learning styles and the multiple intelligences of the students?

The textbook refers students to other resources, especially on-line. Each chapter ends with Internet exercises for the students. Spaced throughout the text are web sites where students will find "Talking Politics". The accompanying student handbook also has information for students who are interested in getting involved in various aspects of the government and politics, as well as research and extended answer questions.

5. Does the "look" of the book appeal to the students?

Believe it or not, this book is by far the most attractive of the textbook choices. Because there is so much content that needs to be addressed, the books are all text heavy. Several of the books that we looked at had virtually no pictures. Although this book is text heavy compared to other non-AP textbooks, it breaks up the text with charts, graphs, and illustrations.

6. Is it culturally diverse and promote gender equity?

Any text which discusses the Bill of Rights, Civil Liberties, and equality needs to be culturally diverse and promote equity. This textbook does that.

7. Does it encourage critical thinking and problem solving? Give examples.

Although the primary function of this textbook appears to be to provide information to the student, there are questions for thought in the margins of many of the pages. These are headed "Can you explain why..." and encourage critical thinking. The internet activities at the end of the chapters are designed for problem solving and critical thinking, as are questions in the student study guide.

8. Does it contain a global perspective? Does it address issues in the U.S. and the world?

Because this is a text about the United States government and political system, it primarily addresses American issues. When relevant, examples of America's relationships with other countries are included. In addition, there is a section on United States foreign policy.

9. Does it provide students with resources for understanding the content and how to use the text? Table of Contents, Glossary, Index, Guideline Charts, Highlights for Chapter, Summaries, Vocabulary Lists, Chapter Reviews, Graphs, Diagrams, Concept Maps, Tables, etc.

Because this is an AP text, it provides minimal information about understanding the text. It does include both detailed and abbreviated tables of content, a glossary, an index, an extensive list of and index to references, important documents (Constitution, Amendments to the Constitution, Federalist papers, etc.), charts and graphs, and Internet exercises for every chapter.

**10. Does it provide and promote uses of technology? Links to websites?**

**Yes, the textbook includes Internet exercises for every chapter and additional site references throughout the text.**

**11. What Teacher Resources are provided?**

**The only Teacher Resource is an Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Items.**

**VERIFICATION OF TEXTBOOK  
SELECTION PROCESS**

**The following teachers/staff were involved in the selection:**

**Names**

**Signatures**

**Susan Walters  
Cory Bergen  
Ken Koenig  
Jaime Dudash  
Ryan Baese**

**The following participated in the Community Focus Group and reviewed the text book:**

**Names**

**Signatures**

*Gail L. Flynn*

*Gail Flynn*

**Names and Publishers of other texts that were considered:**

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**Principal Signature**

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**Date**

**TEXTBOOK REVIEW CRITERIA**  
**Dexter Community Schools**

<b>Title of Text:</b> Psychology: Principles in Practice	<b>Date:</b> 2-27-06
<b>Copyright Date:</b> 2007	<b>Reviewed for Grade(s) and/or Course:</b> Psychology 11/12 grade
<b>ISBN:</b> 0-03-077791-7	<b>Cost per text:</b> \$2.95 <b>Number of copies needed:</b>
<b>Publisher:</b> Holt, Rinehart and Winston	<b>Address:</b>

Please review the text and make a numbered list of the following information:

1. Does the content align with the Michigan Curriculum Framework, GLCE's and the district curriculum? This book fits the standards set forth by the district curriculum.
2. Is the information up-to-date and accurate? Yes, the graphs, charts, and studies unless referred to in a historical sense are as recent as February 27, 2005. This is based on the sections I read that pertain to what is taught in the Psychology classes at DHS.
3. Is the reading level appropriate for the users? This book fits the needs of the students and is the appropriate reading level for students who will take this class
4. Does it address the various learning styles and the multiple intelligences of the students? Yes, each section contains an internet link to specific "Homework Practice" that relates to that sections objectives. Each section also contains ideas for cross-curricular lessons, meeting the needs of individual learner (learning styles), as well as research and extended answer questions.
5. Does the "look" of the book appeal to the students? Yes, the book is much more attractive to students than the current psychology text. It has a good balance of text and chart, graph, and illustrations.
6. Is it culturally diverse and promote gender equity? The book includes "Exploring Diversity" activities throughout the book that cover topics such as therapy and culture, rites of passage, perspectives of consciousness, diversity in research. Gender equity is addressed in many areas of the text as it relates to the study of personality, learning, lifespan development, and gender differences.
7. Does it encourage critical thinking and problem solving? Give examples. Yes, each chapter contains critical thinking tasks and primary source activities. See attached (pg. 45)
8. Does it contain a global perspective? Does it address issues in the U.S. and the world? There are (9) segments called 'Psychology in the World Today' that addresses many issues from the effects of terrorism to eye witness testimony.
9. Does it provide students with resources for understanding the content and how to use the text? Table of Contents, Glossary, Index, Guideline Charts, Highlights for Chapter,

Summaries, Vocabulary Lists, Chapter Reviews, Graphs, Diagrams, Concept Maps, Tables, etc. Yes

10. Does it provide and promote uses of technology? Links to websites? Yes, each section has a link to the publisher's web site that provides practice online. There are also links for the instructor that offers up resources for building lesson plans.
11. What Teacher Resources are provided? Holt provides hard copies and electronic copies of reading support, research and activities, classroom resources, and review and assessment components. In addition it also offers editable lesson plans, classroom presentations, and a test generator.

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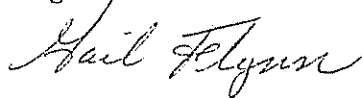
Ken Koenig  
Susan Walters  
Corey Bergen  
Jaime Dudash  
Ryan Baese

The following participated in the Community Focus Group and reviewed the text book:

Names

Signatures

Gail L. Flynn



## Focus Group Textbook Review Discussion

May 11, 2006

7-8 PM DHS

In attendance: Gail Flynn, Ken Koenig, Susan Walters, and Sara Dansky.

Absent: Deb Mondro

We advertised ahead of time for three weeks in the Weekly Wave and had two parents volunteer to take a look through our two proposed texts: *The Challenge of Democracy* for AP Government and *Psychology: Principles in Practice* for the Psychology elective.

Unfortunately only one of our parent volunteers showed up for the evening meeting that we had arranged. Fortunately, the parent who did come had checked the books out ahead of time and had taken a very thorough look so we had good discussion that night.

A few salient points about both books:

### *Psychology: Principles in Practice*

- It was noted that this book is very pleasing graphically
- Reading level better suited for high school than text presently used
- Lots of pictures
- Good chapter reviews
- Good technology component

### *The Challenge of Democracy*

- AP texts tend to be pretty dry and this was the most attractive of many texts that were reviewed.
- Parent noted that unlike the psychology book there were no reviews, etc.
- Because of the nature of the AP class—it is a college level class- the materials are more like what the students will experience in an actual college class.
- Ms. Walters explained that this text functions as a body knowledge that the students need to read ahead of time so that they can come into the class ready to discuss, debate, and write about a variety of issues in American government.