



#8969

## DOMINO EFFECT

Grade Levels: 8-13+

30 minutes

VIDEO RESOURCES SOFTWARE 1999

### DESCRIPTION

City Hall comes under siege when an unemployed worker, depressed over his son's death, blames city government for his legal and financial difficulties. After the dramatic episode, a short documentary, reviewing the events that led to American colonists' declaration of independence, helps illustrate the need for democracy and local rule. The drama offers a platform to discuss why government is necessary and the purpose it serves.

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

#### Subject Area: Civics

- ♦ Standard: Understands the sources, purposes, and functions of law, and the importance of the rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good
  - Benchmark: Knows alternative ideas about the purposes and functions of law (e.g., regulating relationships among people and between people and their government; providing order, predictability, security, and established procedures for the management of conflict; regulating social and economic relationships in civil society)
- ♦ Standard: Understands the central ideas of American constitutional government and how this form of government has shaped the character of American society
  - Benchmark: Knows the major ideas about republican government that influenced the development of the United States Constitution (e.g., the concept of representative government, the importance of civic virtue or concern for the common good)



### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To learn why government is necessary.
2. To explore the importance of government.
3. To define the purposes of government.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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*Domino Effect* is one of 15 thirty-minute episodes found in the *On Common Ground* series. *On Common Ground* is a different and exciting way to learn about U.S. history and government. Each episode includes an action-filled story and a short documentary segment. The stories show the “common ground”—the common values that people in the United States share.

## BEFORE SHOWING

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1. Discuss the difference between local, state and federal government.
2. Review the documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence) created to protect the freedoms of U.S. citizens.
3. Think about the series title, *On Common Ground*, and the video title, “Domino Effect.” What feelings and ideas do the titles provoke? Share these with the class.

## AFTER SHOWING

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### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss the following:
  - a. What is government?
  - b. Why is government important?
  - c. What is meant by “common good”?
  - d. Why does the government establish law and order?
  - e. Why are individual rights important?
  - f. What is the difference between limited and unlimited government?
  - g. Define authoritarian and totalitarian government.
  - h. What is the difference between authority and power?
2. Discuss the services government provides.
3. Discuss the positive things that can happen when people work together.
4. Step into Eddie Buchanan’s shoes.
  - a. List some of the factors contributing to Eddie’s attitude.
  - b. Why was Eddie frustrated with the treatment he received at City Hall?
  - c. How does the title “Domino Effect” relate to Eddie’s life?
  - d. What would happen if everyone attempted to solve problems the way Eddie did?



### Applications and Activities

1. Set up a box of dominos in line—close, but not touching. Knock the last domino over so they all fall. Ask the class to compare the falling dominos to their life experiences.
2. After researching, create a timeline mapping events that led to the establishment of a new government by the colonists.
3. Construct a bulletin board containing newspaper articles that show how government protects the rights of people and promotes the common good.
4. Take a tour of City Hall. Prepare a list of questions to ask in case you meet the mayor.

## RELATED RESOURCES

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### Captioned Media Program

- #3467 Forms of Government: What's the Score?

### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE NET**

<http://www.piperinfo.com/state/index.cfm>

Links to state and local governments. Includes state directories, statewide offices, boards and commissions, cities, libraries and more.

- **BEN'S GUIDE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT: GRADES 9-12**

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/index.html>

Government site includes topics such as historical documents, how laws are made, national versus state government, branches of government and more.

- **PROJECT VOTE SMART**

<http://www.vote-smart.org>

This voter's "self-defense system" is a national non-partisan, non-profit effort that researches, tracks and provides the public independent factual information on over 40,000 candidates and elected officials. Be sure to check out the "Youth Inclusion Project."