

**American Government** is a curriculum-driven instructional tool from ABC-CLIO Schools citing an abundance of authoritative and comprehensive content which, along with customizing capabilities, makes it valuable for all American government needs. It guides users in connecting the most-talked-about issues of our day with the foundations of government.

Computer commands, field names and mouse actions are in *Italics*.  
Text that you must type is within single quote marks ( ' ' ).

To access **American Government**:

**Go to:** RCPL (<http://www.myrpl.com>)

Click on: **Research Tools**

Click: **Government (or use the A-Z list of databases)**

Scroll to: **American Government**

Click: **Inside the Library** or **Home Access**

**1. I'm writing a paper for civics class and need some suggestions for topics.**

- Click *Topic Explorations* (under *Lessons* on left side of screen)
- Nine broad categories related to American government are displayed (*Foundations, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Rights and Liberties, Political Behavior, Domestic and Foreign Policy, Political and Economic Systems, State and Local Government*). Each of these may be clicked to display subtopics.

**2. I've decided to write about landmark civil rights cases. What's the best way to search?**

- Click *Advanced Search*
- From the *Category* list (under *Text box*) select *Court Cases*.
- From the *All Topics* list select *Rights and Liberties*
- Click either *Search* button

[This action will retrieve and display titles and dates for multiple listings of court cases on the selected topic. Click *Next* to advance pages.]

- Click a title from the retrieved list to display the entire entry

**3. How does a bill become a law?**

- Click *Topic Explorations* (under *Lessons* on left side of screen).
- Click *Legislative Branch*
- Click *How a Bill Becomes a Law* (under *Congress in Action*).

[This action will display seven tabs across the top of the screen (*Introduction, Illustration, People, Reference, Activity, Quiz, Discussion*)

- Click *Illustration*

[The *Illustration* page gives a diagrammatic summary of the process. The other tabs will display additional information relevant to that topic.]

**4. Can current events be accessed through this database?**

- Yes. At the home page, which displays a featured news story, there are also headlines under *More News* and a link for *Recent News List*. Clicking these will open the complete entry.

**5. I've been hearing a lot about using ethanol made from corn as fuel. Does *American Government* have any information about this?**

- In the *Site Search* box, type 'ethanol'
- Click *Go*.

[This action will display a list of items in which 'ethanol' is mentioned at least once. These will be grouped by *Category* (*News, Images, Documents*, etc). Each category is a clickable hyperlink.]