CIVICS LEARNING PROJECT
U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Appropriation Bill** (n.) - Also known as supply bill or spending bill, is a proposed law that authorizes the expenditure of government funds. It is a bill that sets money aside for specific spending.

2. **Brinkmanship** (n.) - The practice of trying to achieve an advantageous outcome by pushing dangerous events to the brink of active conflict.

3. **Furlough** (n.) - Suspension or discharge of a worker or workers on account of economic conditions or shortage of work, especially when temporary.

4. **Government Shutdown** (n.) - Occurs when the legislative branch does not pass key bills which fund or authorize the operations of the executive branch, resulting in the cessation of some or all operations of a government.

5. **United States Constitution** (n.) - The fundamental law of the U.S. federal system of government. It defines the principal organs of government and their jurisdictions and the basic rights of citizens.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

➢ What role does the U.S. Constitution play in U.S. federal government shutdowns?

➢ What may be the immediate and long term consequences of a U.S. federal government shutdown?

➢ What would be the effects of deeming each part of the federal government essential? Is that a good idea?

➢ Why do you think the United States government remains the only global government that can shutdown?

➢ Why might certain services still be run by the federal government, even when there is a shutdown?

➢ What, if any, liability or consequences should lawmakers face when overseeing a federal government shutdown?

➢ In your opinion, what are some potential solutions to avoid federal government shutdowns in the future?