



ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

DEMOCRACY EDUCATION CENTER

Currently under development, the Democracy Education Center seeks to engage students and the public in learning more about the contemporary and historical democratic processes in our local, state, and federal governments. The Center is developing several aspects of its programming:

- **Digital Democracy: Computer Simulations of the Democratic Process at Critical Moments in American History:** Using the papers of Senator Albert Gore, Sr., and other important collections, the Center is developing a role-playing computer game in which students use primary source materials to simulate the democratic discussion about and the legislative progress of bills such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and controversies like America's involvement in Vietnam. The simulation allows students to shape their own views based on the information presented at various points of the simulation and to reflect on their roles and choices after the simulation ends.
- **Democracy Education Center:** Based on the White House Decision Center at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri (<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whdc/>), the Gore Center's Democracy Decision Center will provide curriculum materials to local high school and college students in advance of their visit to the center. The materials will be compendia of primary sources around a particular issue that allow the students to take on a particular role in the democratic situation in question. The Truman Library, for instance, uses the outbreak of the Korean War, Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb, and many other situations. When the students visit the Democracy Education Center at MTSU, they will play their assigned historical role in face-to-face meetings, press conferences, and other venues that simulate the workings of Congress, the Tennessee State Legislature, or the Executive Branch of the state and federal governments.
- **Democracy and Leadership Education:** The Center actively seeks opportunities to partner with other programs at MTSU (such as the American Democracy Project and the Leadership Institute in the University Honors College) and with community partners to conduct democracy education programs for students in Tennessee and from other countries. The Center has applied for federal grants to bring students from abroad to Tennessee and Washington, DC, for several weeks of leadership education and hands-on experiences with American democracy.

<http://gorecenter.mtsu.edu>