Teaching the EU Toolkits High School Lesson Plan 3.D
What is the European Union? How Does the EU Work?

Objective: I can explain how the European Union works, how it is run and how it is maintained. I can understand the structure of its governance.

CCSS Standard(s):
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.

Materials needed:
Institutions PowerPoint
Blank Flowchart
Answer Flowchart

Agenda:
Teacher will instruct the class using the Institutions PowerPoint on how the EU runs through the lens of its institutions. By explaining the institutions—organizations or groups with power—of the EU, the teacher will answer the question, “How is the EU run?” Teacher will give detailed information from the PowerPoint and additional resources on the governance of the European Union and on its individual institutions and bodies. Students will then be given a flow chart to review and map out the institutions of the EU on their own, as they learned about in the PowerPoint. They may do this independently or in small groups.

Extension:
Students will create a chart or Venn diagram to compare the power structure of the European Union to other bodies of governance that they have learned about, such as the system of checks and balances in the United States.

Conclusion: The European Union works in specific ways through institutions, which are organizations within a political structure, and I can describe the ways that these institutions run through using a flowchart.

Additional resources:
http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm