

# We the People ...

## The 3 Branches of the American Government

### Instructions

Create a project to explain the three branches of the American government under the United States Constitution. You will include information on the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government. Your group will also analyze some problems with the American government.

### Central Questions:

- How does the United States government work under the Constitution?
  - The Ideas behind the Government
  - The 3 Branches of the Government
  
- What are some problems in the functioning of the government today?

### Choose a project:

- ❖ A Pyramid, Poster, Tri-Fold Pamphlet, Booklet, or Google Slides
  
- Each group member will be responsible for one of the topics below.
- Required Information:
  - ❖ Ideas in the American Government
    - Republic, Popular Sovereignty
    - Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances
  - ❖ Legislative Branch
    - Bicameral Congress: the Senate and the House of Representatives
    - Creating Laws
  - ❖ Executive Branch
    - The Presidency and the Executive Departments
    - Election of the President, Problems with the Electoral System
  - ❖ Judicial Branch
    - The national court system: District, Appeals, and Supreme Court
    - Judicial Review
  
- T-Charts
  - ❖ Use the attached frames to help you organize information.
  
- Required Illustrations (drawn or printed)
  - ❖ At least 2 pictures for each topic

Due \_\_\_\_\_

Points: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Project</u>	<u>Great</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair – needed work</u>
Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government  20 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completely, accurately explained all parts</li> <li>• Went beyond provide frame – original, creative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explained most parts, missing some information</li> <li>• Followed frame</li> <li>• A few inaccuracies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing key information</li> <li>• Needed to explain parts better</li> <li>• Inaccurate information in parts</li> <li>• Needed more effort, to follow frame</li> </ul>
Illustrations  10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had more than required illustrations, explained branches</li> <li>• Excellent design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had 3 illustrations</li> <li>• Good project design</li> <li>• Most illustrations explained branches of government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needed more illustrations</li> <li>• Project design disorganized or sloppy</li> <li>• Needed to explain branches, ideas better</li> </ul>
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Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph. (WB, p. 54 – 62, MW, p. 139 – 142)

• **Paragraph 1: The Legislative Branch**

<p><b><u>Green: State your topic.</u></b></p>	<p>Article _____ of the United States Constitution organizes the _____ branch of the government. The two parts of Congress are the _____</p>
<p><b><u>Red: Details and explanations</u></b></p> <p><b>Senate Rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term of office</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• # per state</li> <li>• Total # in Senate</li> <li>• 1 power of the Senate</li> </ul> <p><b>House Rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term of office</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• # of representatives</li> <li>• How a state's house members determined</li> <li>• 1 power of the House</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yellow:</b> The Constitution explains rules for the Senate.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> The Constitution also explains rules for the House of Representatives.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(U.S. Const. art. I, sect. 2, 3)</p>
<p><b><u>Green: Concluding Sentence</u></b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>



All group members must do: Active Legislation in 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

Go to Ms. Conway's website, Links, Congress – the Senate

- On the right of the web page, go to Active Legislation
- Scroll down to Popular Titles and Subjects
- Choose a bill
- Click on the Senate or House Bill (S or HR), Read the Summary

Active Legislation in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

Latest Title of the Bill	
Details: Bill Number	Bill Number (S/HR)
	Sponsor Party
	Latest Major Action
What would the bill do?	
Quote from Bill:	
Your Opinion	Should Congress Pass this Bill? Why or why not?

Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph. (WB, p. 63 – 65, 71 - 73 , MW, p. 142 - 143 )

• **Paragraph 1: The Executive Branch**

<p><b><u>Green: State your topic.</u></b></p>	<p>Article _____ of the United States Constitution organizes the _____ branch of the government. This includes the _____</p>
<p><b><u>Red: Details and explanations</u></b></p> <p>Rules and qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term of office</li> <li>• Qualifications</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Red: Details and explanations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the cabinet?</li> <li>• What are executive departments?</li> <li>• One example of a cabinet member and executive department – include the current secretary and the job of the job of the department.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yellow:</b> The Constitution explains the rules and qualifications of the _____</p> <p>And the _____.</p> <p>(U.S. Const. art. II, sect. 1)</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> The president appoints a cabinet who lead the _____.</p> <p>The cabinet is _____</p> <p>Executive departments are _____</p> <p>One example of an executive department is _____</p> <p>(U.S. Const. art. II, sect. 2)</p>
<p><b><u>Green: Concluding Sentence</u></b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>



Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph. (WB, p. 74 - 76, MW, p. 143 – 144)

• **Paragraph 1: The Judicial Branch**

<p><b>Green: State your topic.</b></p>	<p>Article _____ of the United States Constitution organizes the _____ branch of the government. This created the _____</p>
<p><b>Red: Details and explanations</b></p> <p><b>Supreme Court Rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term of office</li> <li>• Appointed by</li> <li>• Approved by</li> <li>• Total # on Court</li> <li>• # of cases each year</li> <li>• How does the Court decide cases?</li> </ul> <p><b>What is Judicial Review:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the power and importance of judicial review.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yellow:</b> The Constitution explains rules for the Supreme Court.</p> <p>(U.S. Const. art. II, sect. 2, art. III, sect. 1)</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review.</p> <p>(Marbury v. Madison, 1803)</p>
<p><b>Green: Concluding Sentence</b></p>	



Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph. (WB, p. 74 - 76, MW, p. 143 – 144)

• **Paragraph 2: The Judicial Branch**

<p><b>Green: State your topic.</b></p>	<p>Article III of the United States Constitution and the _____          _____ created the          Federal court system.</p>
<p><b>Red: Details and explanations</b></p> <p><b>Supreme Court Rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the federal court system organized?</li> <li>• Explain the district, appeals, and supreme court</li> </ul> <p><b>Explain:</b></p> <p><b>One member of the Supreme Court</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WB, p. 76</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yellow:</b> The federal court system has three levels. The lowest level of courts are the</p> <p>(U.S. Const. art. III, sect. 1, Judiciary Act of 1789)</p> <p>(U.S. Const. art. III, sect. 1, Judiciary Act of 1789)</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> One justice on the Supreme Court is</p>
<p><b>Green: Concluding Sentence</b></p>	

Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph. (WB, p. 28 – 32, MW, p. 137 - 139)

• Paragraph 1: The Big Ideas in the American Government

<p><b>Green: State your topic.</b></p>	<p>There are many ideas in the American government. The United States is a republic governed by the people.</p>
<p><b>Red: Details and explanations</b></p> <p><b>A Republic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain how a republic works in the USA.</li></ul> <p><b>What is popular sovereignty?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain the idea of popular sovereignty</li></ul>	<p><b>Yellow:</b> First, the United States is a republic that relies on representatives.</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> Next, the American government includes the idea of popular Sovereignty.</p>
<p><b>Green: Concluding Sentence</b></p>	

**Paragraph 2: The Big Ideas in the American Government**

<p><b><u>Green: State your topic.</u></b></p>	<p>Other big ideas in the American government are separation of powers and checks and balances.</p>
<p><b><u>Red: Details and explanations</u></b></p> <p><b>Separation of Powers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the three branches of the government.</li> </ul> <p><b>Checks and Balances:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how checks and balances work in the government. Use an example.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yellow:</b> First, the separation of powers breaks the American government into three branches.</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> Next, the American government includes the idea of checks and balances.</p> <p>One example of checks and balances involves creating laws.</p>
<p><b><u>Green: Concluding Sentence</u></b></p>	