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: _____

Project	Great	Good	Fair – needed work	
Content:	Completely,	Explained most	Missing key information	
3 Branches of	accurately	parts, missing some	Needed to explain parts better	
government, Ideas in	explained all parts	information	 Inaccurate information in parts 	
government	Went beyond	Followed frame	Needed more effort, to follow	
0	provide frame –	A few inaccuracies	frame	
20 points	original, creative			
Illustrations	Had more than	Had 3 illustrations	Needed more illustrations	
	required	Good project design	• Project design disorganized or	
10 points	illustrations,	Most illustrations	sloppy	
·	explained branches	explained branches	 Needed to explain branches, 	
	Excellent design	of government	ideas better	
Name:	Points	• <u>Grade</u>		
Project	Great	Good	Fair – needed work	
Content:	Completely,	Explained most	Missing key information	
3 Branches of	accurately	parts, missing some	Needed to explain parts better	
government, Ideas in	explained all parts	information	Inaccurate information in parts	
government	Went beyond	Followed frame	Needed more effort, to follow	
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	explained branches	explained branches	Needed to explain branches,	
	Excellent design	of government	ideas better	
<u>Name:</u>	• <u>Points</u>	• <u>Grade</u>		
Project	Great	Good	<u>Fair – needed work</u>	
Content:	Completely,	Explained most	Missing key information	
3 Branches of	accurately	parts, missing some	Needed to explain parts better	
government, Ideas in	explained all parts	information	• Inaccurate information in parts	
government	Went beyond	Followed frame	Needed more effort, to follow	
	provide frame –	• A few inaccuracies	frame	
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	Excellent design	of government	ideas better	
Name:	Points	• <u>Grade</u>		
	Great	Good	Fair – needed work	
Project	Great • Completely	Good • Explained most	Fair – needed work Missing key information	
Project Content:	Completely,	Explained most	Missing key information	
Project Content: 3 Branches of	Completely, accurately	• Explained most parts, missing some	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better 	
<u>Project</u> Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in	Completely, accurately explained all parts	Explained most parts, missing some information	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts 	
Project Content: 3 Branches of	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond 	 Explained most parts, missing some information Followed frame 	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts Needed more effort, to follow 	
Project Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond provide frame – 	Explained most parts, missing some information	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts 	
Project Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government 20 points	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond provide frame – original, creative 	 Explained most parts, missing some information Followed frame A few inaccuracies 	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts Needed more effort, to follow frame 	
<u>Project</u> Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond provide frame – original, creative Had more than 	 Explained most parts, missing some information Followed frame A few inaccuracies Had 3 illustrations 	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts Needed more effort, to follow frame Needed more illustrations 	
Project Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government 20 points Illustrations	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond provide frame – original, creative Had more than required 	 Explained most parts, missing some information Followed frame A few inaccuracies Had 3 illustrations Good project design 	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts Needed more effort, to follow frame Needed more illustrations Project design disorganized or 	
Project Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government 20 points	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond provide frame – original, creative Had more than required illustrations, 	 Explained most parts, missing some information Followed frame A few inaccuracies Had 3 illustrations Good project design Most illustrations 	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts Needed more effort, to follow frame Needed more illustrations Project design disorganized or sloppy 	
<u>Project</u> Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government 20 points Illustrations	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond provide frame – original, creative Had more than required illustrations, explained branches 	 Explained most parts, missing some information Followed frame A few inaccuracies Had 3 illustrations Good project design Most illustrations explained branches 	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts Needed more effort, to follow frame Needed more illustrations Project design disorganized or sloppy Needed to explain branches, 	
<u>Project</u> Content: 3 Branches of government, Ideas in government 20 points Illustrations	 Completely, accurately explained all parts Went beyond provide frame – original, creative Had more than required illustrations, 	 Explained most parts, missing some information Followed frame A few inaccuracies Had 3 illustrations Good project design Most illustrations 	 Missing key information Needed to explain parts better Inaccurate information in parts Needed more effort, to follow frame Needed more illustrations Project design disorganized or sloppy 	

• Paragraph 1: The Legislative Branch

Green: State your	Article of the United States Constitution organizes the
topic.	branch of the
	government. The two parts of Congress are the
	Yellow: The Constitution explains rules for the Senate.
Red: Details and	
explanations	
Senate Rules:	
 Term of office Leadership # per state Total # in Senate 1 power of the Senate 	
	Yellow: The Constitution also explains rules for the House of
House Rules:	Representatives.
 Term of office Leadership # of representatives How a state's house members determined 1 power of the House 	U.S. Const. art. I, sect. 2, 3)
<u>Green:</u> <u>Concluding</u> <u>Sentence</u>	

• Paragraph 2: The Legislative Branch

Green: State your	The main job of the legislative branch is to make the nation's
topic.	·
	Yellow: The process of a bill to become a law is very
Red: Details and	·
explanations	First, a bill can start in either house of Congress. In this example the
How does a bill	bill will start in the
become a law?	
	(U.S. Const. art. I, sect. 7)
	One major problem with passing laws is
 What is one major problem 	
with passing	
laws in the	
USA?	
Green:	
Concluding	
<u>Sentence</u>	

All group members must do: Active Legislation in 115th 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 115th 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?

• Paragraph 1: The Executive Branch

Green: State	Article of the United States Constitution organizes the
<u>your topic.</u>	branch of the
	government. This includes the
	Yellow: The Constitution explains the rules and qualifications of the
Red: Details and	
explanations	And the
Rules and	
qualifications	
Term of office	
 Qualifications 	
Dada Datalla and	
Red: Details and	(U.S. Const. art. II, sect. 1)
explanations	Yellow: The president appoints a cabinet who lead the
 What is the cabinet? 	
What are	The cabinet is
executive	
departments?	
 One example of a cabinet 	Executive departments are
member and	
executive	
department –	
include the	
current	One example of an executive department is
secretary and the job of the	
job of the	
department.	
	(U.S. Const. art. II, sect. 2)
Green:	
Concluding	
<u>Sentence</u>	

• Paragraph 2: The Executive Branch

Green: State	The president and the vice president are elected indirectly through
your topic.	states' electoral votes.
	Yellow: The election of the president and the vice president is
Red: Details and explanations	 First, each state
 How does the USA elect the president and the vice president? 	
 <u>Red: Details and</u> <u>explanations</u> What is one major problem with how the USA elects the president? 	One major problem with the election of the president is
<u>Green:</u> Concluding Sentence	(U.S. Const. art. II, sect. 1)

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

• Paragraph 1: The Judicial Branch

Green: State	Article of the United States Constitution organizes the
<u>your topic.</u>	branch of the
	government. This created the
	Yellow: The Constitution explains rules for the Supreme Court.
Red: Details and	
explanations	
Supreme Court	
Rules:	
• Term of	
office	
• Appointed by	
Approved by	
• Total # on	
Court	
 # of cases 	
each year	
 How does 	(U.S. Const. art. II, sect. 2, art. III, sect. 1)
the Court	Yellow: The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review.
decide	
cases?	
What is Judicial	
Review:	
 Explain the 	
power and	
importance	
of judicial	
review.	
	(Marbury v. Madison, 1803)
Green:	
Concluding	
<u>Sentence</u>	

• Paragraph 2: The Judicial Branch

Green: State	Article III of the United States Constitution and the		
<u>your topic.</u>	created the		
	Federal court system.		
	Yellow: The federal court system has three levels. The lowest level of		
Red: Details and	courts are the		
explanations			
Supreme Court			
Rules:			
 How is the federal court system organized? Explain the district, appeals, and supreme 			
court	(U.S. Const. art. III, sect. 1, Judiciary Act of 1789)		
Explain:	(U.S. Const. art. III, sect. 1, Judiciary Act of 1789)		
One member of the Supreme Court • WB, p. 76	Yellow: One justice on the Supreme Court is		
<u>Green:</u> <u>Concluding</u> <u>Sentence</u>			

•	Paragraph	1: The	Big Ideas	in the	American	Government
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Green: State	There are many ideas in the American government. The United States
your topic.	is a republic governed by the people.
	Yellow: First, the United States is a republic that relies on
Red: Details and	representatives.
explanations	
A Republic:	
 Explain how a republic works in the USA. 	
 What is popular sovereignty? Explain the idea of popular sovereignty 	Yellow: Next, the American government includes the idea of popular Sovereignty.
<u>Green:</u>	
<u>Concluding</u> <u>Sentence</u>	

Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph. (WB, p. 28 – 32, MW, p. 137 - 139) Paragraph 2: The Big Ideas in the American Government

Green: State	Other big ideas in the American government are separation of powers	
your topic. and checks and balances.		
	Yellow: First, the separation of powers breaks the American	
Red: Details and	government into three branches.	
explanations		
Separation of		
Powers:		
 Explain the three branches of the government. 	Yellow: Next, the American government includes the idea of checks and balances.	
Checks and Balances: • Explain how checks and balances work in the government. Use an example.	One example of checks and balances involves creating laws.	
<u>Green:</u> <u>Concluding</u> <u>Sentence</u>		