


1.6 Principles of US Government & Amending the Constitution






September 6/7, 2023



<i>Learning Intention</i>	 <i>Success Criteria</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can identify the branches of government and powers they contain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can explain the implications of separation of powers and “checks and balances” for the U.S. political system.

<i>Topic</i>	1.6 Principles of US Gov & Amending
<i>You will need</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 Chromebooks per group Constitutional Power Jamboard
	Constitutional Power Jamboard
<i>Homework</i>	<i>Read pgs 64-77 & work on reading guide</i>



- PMI-1.A LO- Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and “checks and balances.”

1.6 Principles of US Government & Amending the Constitution

Learning Intention

- I can identify the branches of government and powers they contain

Success Criteria

- I can explain the implications of separation of powers and “checks and balances” for the U.S. political system.

✦ **Taking Notes**

Students are expected to take notes on discussions, slide decks, and videos to reference later when reviewing content, studying for assessments, and completion of class activities building upon prior knowledge.



- **How did the Constitution live up to the American ideals as ratified?**

**‘What To The
Slave Is The
Fourth Of
July?’
Descendants
Read
Frederick
Douglass’
Speech**





- **How does the Constitution live up to the American ideals, as ratified, today?**

Table Group Activity



In your table group

- Identify legislative, executive, and judicial powers
- Identify at least one check on each branch

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

Powers

Checks

Branches of Gov

TABLE 2.3 Separated Institutions Sharing Powers

POWERS OF EACH BRANCH			
	Executive Branch	Legislative Branch	Judicial Branch
Lawmaking Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executes laws. Works to shape legislative agenda. Has power to veto legislation. Nominates judges to the federal judiciary. Nominates key executive branch officials. Gives State of the Union Address. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes nation's laws. Can override a presidential veto. Determines number of Supreme Court justices. Creates lower courts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interprets contested laws. Can declare both federal and state laws unconstitutional.
National Security and Foreign Policy Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President acts as commander in chief of the military. Sets foreign policy agenda. Negotiates treaties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declares war. Senate ratifies treaties. 	
Oversight Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversees federal bureaucracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House issues articles of impeachment; Senate holds impeachment trials (over president, executive branch officials, and federal judges). Budget authority and oversight over executive branch agencies. Senate confirms judicial nominees. Senate confirms key executive branch officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May declare executive branch actions in conflict with the Constitution.

MADISONIAN MODEL

Fear that majority and minority factions could threaten the government

Solution: Set up precautions that will prevent this from happening



SEPARATION OF POWERS

Separate the power between three branches of government



CHECKS AND BALANCES

Each branch can prevent the other branches from becoming omnipotent



FEDERALISM

Share the power between the national government and the state governments

1. Explain the multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence policy as a result of separation of powers and checks and balances.
2. How have checks and balances been used in impeachment, removal, and other legal actions against public officials deemed to have abused their power?

Federalism

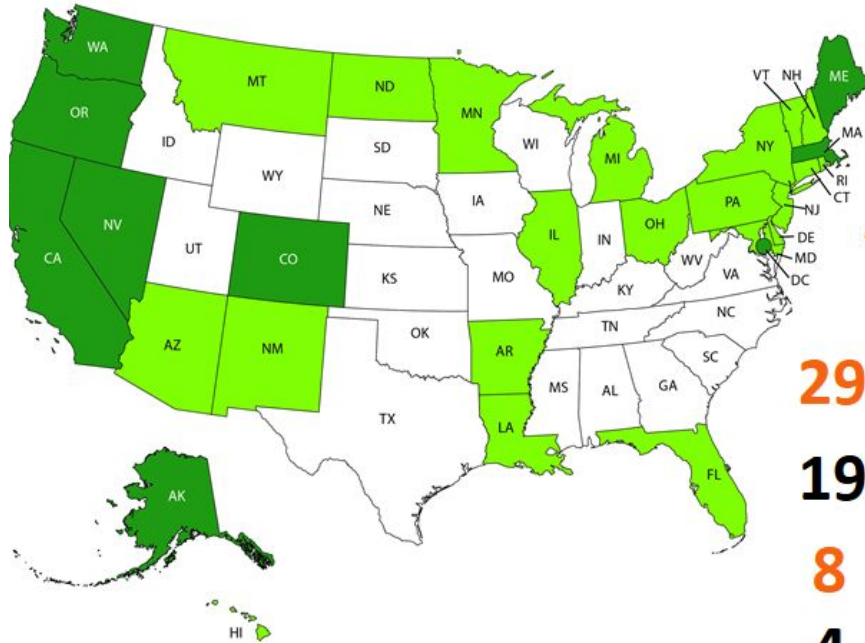
**Division of power between the national and state governments...
What could go wrong?**



Federalism & Marijuana

Marijuana Legalization by State

■ States with Recreational Marijuana Laws ■ States with Medical Marijuana Laws



Key Statistics

59.3%

of the U.S. population now lives in a state where marijuana has been legalized

29 states plus Washington DC have medical marijuana laws ...

19 plus Washington DC have operating dispensaries

8 states plus Washington DC have recreational marijuana laws ...

4 with operating retail stores



Federalism & Marijuana



- What were the connections to federalism in the video?
- What did you find surprising?

Federalism & Marijuana



1. What does this video have to do with federalism?
2. Do you think states should make laws that contradict federal law?
3. When the state and federal law are at odds, who wins?
4. How much power should the Attorney General have to decide how to enforce laws?
5. Do you agree with Chris Williams' sentence?
6. Why isn't the U.S. shaded as only one color in the map above?

Homework

- *Read pgs 64-77 & work on reading guide*

