

Video Segments

<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/constitution-usa-peter-sagal/classroom/episode-1-federalism/>

Segment 1: Constitutional Battle Ground State

Is it fair that a local business owner has to be caught between the laws of the state and federal government? Whom should he listen to? Who wins—state or federal power? Why?

What did the Founding Fathers have in mind when they created a shared power system?

Why don't DEA agents shut down the Harborside Health Center in Oakland, CA?

How could the Commerce Clause of the Constitution apply to medical marijuana? Why does the owner believe it does not apply to Harborside?

Segment 2: The Big Bang Theory...The United States Constitution

Where is the Constitution? How does it affect you?

Do you feel like we govern ourselves?

After fighting a war to leave a strong government (Britain), why did the Founding Fathers want to create a strong government?

Segment 3: Philadelphia and the Constitutional Convention

What were the issues that were causing our new country to fall apart?

What plan laid the groundwork for our new government?

What did they create? What powers did the new government have? List some of them.

In this new system did they balance the power? What were some of the negative outcomes?

Segment 4: Power Struggle: Tug of War

In what ways does the federal government step on the rights of the states? Why?

What is the advantage of the state government making laws for the people?

What is the role of the federal government in dealing with state law?

Segment 5: *We Can't Go it Alone!*

Why would the government concern itself with building a dam in the middle of the desert?

How did the Great Depression put our nation in crisis? What actions did the federal government take to ensure the general welfare of the United States? Through what branch did the New Deal arise? What were seen as the negatives of the New Deal?

Segment 6: *Separate but NOT Equal*

Why did the students have to put themselves at risk for our country?

What federal branch ruled that the state laws were unconstitutional? Why did the federal government need to step in?

What was the reason the soldiers walked the students straight up the front steps rather than bring them in another entrance?

Resistance. That's the word that was used by Minnijean to describe what she felt that day. Why did she choose that word? Have you ever felt this way?

Segment 7: *The Commerce Clause*

Why did Wickard believe he was right? Why did he not win his case? How did his case affect other states?

Why might it be better for laws to be made by local government?

Why is it not always possible to vote with your feet?

Where do we fight these battles today?