

Introduction to American Government

Introduction to Government

Describe the purposes and functions of government.

Explain the roles and responsibilities of citizenship.

Identify different structures of government.

Types of Governments

Describe the features of oligarchies and autocracies.

Explore the advantages and disadvantages of different types of democracy.

Identify the differences between federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.

The Origins of Democracy

Explain the effect of Judeo-Christian laws and ideals on principles of government.

Explore the influence of the structure of the Athenian democracy and the Roman republic.

English Influences on Government

Explain how English governing documents have limited government powers.

Identify examples of how English governing documents have provided rights for citizens.

Understand how English documents have influenced our understanding of the law.

The Enlightenment

Describe the goals of the Enlightenment.

Identify Enlightenment ideas that created a new understanding of the role of government and the rights of citizens.

The Declaration of Independence

Analyze the actions taken by the Declaration of Independence.

Examine early colonial events that led to the need for a declaration.

Identify the key principles contained in the Declaration of Independence.

The Need for a Constitution

Analyze the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and its role in leading to the drafting of the US Constitution.

Explain the powers granted by the Articles of the Confederation to the states and to the federal government.

Identify the reasons for the creation of the Articles of Confederation.

Drafting the Constitution

Analyze the effects of the Three-Fifths Compromise in ending the ratification debates over slavery.

Describe the key differences between states that led to debate during the Constitutional Convention.

Explain how the Great Compromise negotiated a plan for representation in Congress.



The Constitution

Principles and the Preamble

Analyze the purposes and functions of the government as stated in the Preamble.

Explain what the Constitution specifies about the role and structure of government.

Federalism in the Constitution

Define the role and purpose of federalism.

Differentiate between types of state and federal powers.

Article I: Congress

Analyze the role of the Necessary and Proper Clause in establishing implied powers for Congress.

Describe the structure of Congress as organized by Article I of the Constitution.

Identify the expressed powers of Congress.

Article II: The Presidency

Analyze the powers and duties of the President.

Describe the structure of the executive branch as outlined by Article II of the Constitution.

Article III: The Courts

Analyze the powers given to the judicial branch.

Identify the structure of the judicial branch created by Article III of the Constitution.

Article IV-VII: The Role of the Constitution

Describe the process of amending the Constitution.

Describe the process of ratification.

Examine the meaning of the Supremacy Clause.

Identify the powers and requirements given to the states by Article IV.

Federalists and Anti-Federalists

Explain the reasons for Federalist support of ratification.

Identify Anti-Federalist objections to the Constitution.

The Supreme Court and the Role of Government

Analyze how Gibbons v. Ogden expanded the idea of federal supremacy.

Describe how McCulloch v. Maryland affected the powers of the federal government.

Explain how Marbury v. Madison established the principle of judicial review.

Writing Workshop: The Purpose of Government

Create a draft of an argumentative essay.

Develop a claim about the purpose of government.

Revise and finalize an argumentative essay.



Civil Rights and Liberties

The Bill of Rights

Describe the purpose of each of the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Explain how the Bill of Rights establishes civil liberties.

Your Rights: Freedom of Religion

Analyze Court decisions concerning the First Amendment's establishment clause.

Describe the purpose and language of the First Amendment.

Your Rights: Freedom of Expression

Define the political rights of freedom of speech, press, and assembly.

Explain the limits placed on First Amendment rights and the reasons why these limits are in place.

Your Rights: Due Process

Analyze Supreme Court interpretations of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

Describe the rights of the accused as found in the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

Your Rights: Trials and Punishments

Analyze how Supreme Court decisions created new interpretations of the Sixth and Eighth Amendments.

Identify the rights of the accused as defined by the Sixth and Eighth Amendments.

Your Rights: Personal Privacy

Analyze the effects of major Supreme Court cases related to privacy rights.

Define an individual's right to privacy and the limits to that right.

Explain how the Ninth Amendment guarantees the unenumerated rights of the people.

The Fourteenth Amendment

Analyze the importance of the Fourteenth Amendment in incorporating the Bill of Rights.

Describe the civil rights protections created by the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Supreme Court and Civil Rights

Analyze the ways the Constitution protects and limits the rights and powers of both government and individuals.

Describe major Supreme Court cases involving Fourteenth Amendment Rights.

Explain how the Supreme Court has reinterpreted civil rights over time.

Extending Voting Rights

Examine the effects of the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act of the 1960s.

Explain how the Fifteenth Amendment extended voting rights to African Americans.

Summarize the contents of the Nineteenth and Twenty-Sixth Amendments.



Case Study: The Stolen Valor Act

Analyze the importance of legal precedent.

Create an opinion that supports and defends a decision.

Examine the facts of a civil rights case.

Government Institutions

The House of Representatives

Describe the structure of the House of Representatives.

Explain the function of the House of Representatives and what its members do.

List the powers granted to the House of Representatives and the limits to those powers.

The Senate

Describe the structure of the Senate.

Explain the function of the Senate and what its members do.

List the powers granted to the Senate and the limits to those powers.

The Presidency and Its Powers

Describe the president's duties and roles.

Discuss the president's powers and how they have been challenged or changed over time.

Identify the structure and purpose of the office of president.

The Federal Bureaucracy

Describe the role of independent agencies in the executive branch.

Explain the functions and duties of executive departments.

Identify the role of the cabinet in leading the executive bureaucracy.

The Judicial Branch

Describe the organization of the federal and state court systems.

Explain the basics of the legal process.

State Government

Describe how state governments can be structured.

List the functions and duties of state governments.

Local Government

Analyze the function and roles of local governments.

Describe how local governments can be structured.



Writing Workshop: Researching an Agency

Create an outline in response to an informative essay prompt.

Identify the structure of government created by Arizona's Constitution.

Revise and finalize an informative essay.

Write a draft of an informative essay about a federal agency.

Civics and Participation

A Citizen's Responsibilities

Define citizen and the different types of citizenship status.

Describe the requirements and responsibilities of citizens.

List the qualities of a model citizen.

Political Perspectives

Analyze the factors that influence a person's political beliefs.

Identify major political ideologies.

Political Parties

Analyze how political parties govern.

Describe the rise and transformation of political parties.

Explain how political parties are organized.

Campaigns and Elections

Describe how campaigns are structured, held, and funded.

Explain the primary and election process.

Voting

Analyze voter turnout trends.

Describe the process of voting.

Explain issues surrounding the creation of voting districts.

Interest Groups and Lobbying

Describe the purpose and influence of interest groups and public action committees.

Examine the function and influence of lobbyists.

The Media and Politics

Describe the ways media sources influence elections and the creation of policy.

Examine the ways politicians use the media to communicate a message.



Public Policy

Creating Public Policy

Define public policy.

Describe influences on the creation of public policy.

Identify the ways public policy is made.

Fiscal Policy

Describe the main sources of government funding on the federal, state, and local levels.

Analyze the government's main sources of expenditure.

Identify the purpose of taxation and its relation to public policy.

Regulatory Policy

Distinguish between regulatory policy actions that establish financial and safety regulations.

Explain why governments establish regulatory policy.

Identify government agencies that create regulatory policy.

Social Policy

Analyze the issues facing social security programs.

Examine the factors that influence public assistance programs.

Identify the government's role in establishing education policy.

Foreign Policy

Describe how foreign policy is created and the factors influencing its creation.

Examine the role and influence of international governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Identify the ways foreign policy is implemented and its impact.

National Security Policy

Analyze the role of US military forces in ensuring national security and instigating global change.

Examine the way economic interests have influenced US foreign policy decisions.

Identify the effects of multilateral aid efforts involving the United States.

Global Economic Policy

Describe economic foreign policy and why it is necessary.

Examine the use of trade agreements, tariffs, sanctions, and aid in implementing policy.

Case Study: Proposing Education Policy Solutions

Develop a policy to solve the issue.

Explore a major issue in education.

Write a opening statement for a candidate about the issue.