

U.S. GOVERNMENT

Final Project/Paper



Since it is a major goal of this class to help create informed and involved citizens and since such citizens understand how the constitutional principle of checks and balances protects the three branches of government, for your final project you are required to research one current or historical event and write a research paper about the effectiveness of the system of checks and balances related to that event. How FUN!!



You are required to:

- 1) Select an event and explain how the branches of the federal government exercised constitutional powers during this event.
- 2) Explain the checks or possible checks available to the branches of government during this event.
- 3) Analyze whether the system of checks and balances was effective in this example.

Your paper must include:

- 1) An introduction to the event and its historical context.
- 2) An accurate explanation of how each of the three branches of government exercised Constitutional powers in this event.
- 3) An accurate explanation of the checks (or possible checks) in regard to this event with at least three specific examples.
- 4) A clearly stated, plausible position analyzing whether the system of checks and balances worked in this event, with at least three clearly explained reasons.
- 5) A conclusion briefly explaining the importance or consequence of the event.



CHECKS AND BALANCES

Student Checklist

- Choose one historical example (either from the proposed list or approved by the teacher) of checks and balances in the government of the U.S.*
- Examine background information about the time period in which the checks and balances issue was decided and/or carried out.*
- Review and understand key concepts related to the checks and balance system.*
- Review the constitutional powers of each branch.*
- Review the possible checks each branch has on the other branches.*
- Identify specific events that caused one or more branches of government to attempt to check the power of another branch.*
- Identify how the other branch(es) of government responded by using constitutional checks and balances.*
- Explain possible checks available to the two other branches of government during this event.*
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the checks and balances process in this event.*
- Review the Constitution to find passages that connect to the checks and balances principle.*

- *Research relevant court cases and/or government policies and laws.*
- *Research the topic, using and documenting primary and secondary sources.*
- *Select accurate and relevant evidence (hard copies, notes, paraphrased summaries, charts, questions) to support the research.*
- *Examine sources to ensure their validity, reliability, and credibility (double-check statistics, look for bias, etc.); identify facts and opinions.*
- *Use the graphic organizer provided to organize and clarify research findings.*
- *Write the paper, duh.*

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST ALSO BE MET:

- 1) Typed in **12 point** Times New Roman font, **double-spaced**, with **one inch margins** (top, bottom and sides)
- 2) Minimum of **five full pages**.
- 3) Follows **MLA, APA, or Chicago formatting** guidelines using parenthetical citations, footnotes, or end notes.
- 4) Includes minimum of **five sources used and cited** that reflect at least three different types (internet, periodicals, scholarly work, interviews, etc.).
- 5) Includes **works cited page or bibliography** page which follows MLA, APA, or Chicago style with the paper (in addition to the five full pages of the paper itself.)