1. Founding fathers like Thomas Jefferson were influenced by many Enlightenment ideals. These ideas were incorporated in important founding documents like the Declaration of Independence. The statement, “All men…are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” reflects the Enlightenment ideals as expressed by John Locke. Locke wrote at length about natural law and natural rights. His writings argued that all people are born with natural rights to life, liberty and property. He believed these rights were independent of any government or social laws.
2. The pamphlet “Common Sense” was written by Thomas Paine in 1776. It blamed King George III for the problems in American Colonies. It also challenged the authority of the British government and monarchy. Thomas Paine argued that the colonists should declare their independence from Britain. The pamphlet “Common Sense” emphasized the right to and benefits of self-government. It was widely read and encouraged support for independence from colonial rule among many colonists.
3. In 1773 the British Parliament passed the Tea Act, which the colonists saw as a tax imposed without their consent. In response, the Sons of Liberty organized the Boston Tea Party. Britain responded by passing the Intolerable Acts. These acts encouraged more people to support independence. The Continental Congress appointed five delegates to create a document outlining their beliefs, listing their complaints, against the king and declaring independence from the British government. This document became known as the Declaration of Independence.
4. The Declaration of Independence has three main sections. The colonists began by describing their beliefs about government, including natural rights and the social contract. The middle section is the list of grievances or complaints against King George III. The document ends with the official statement of independence. Some of the complaints included in the Declaration of Independence include imposing taxes without the consent of the people, suspending trial by jury, limiting judicial powers, quartering soldiers on colonists’ property, and dissolving local legislatures.
5. In this passage from Locke’s *Second Treatise on Civil Government,* he states that government should preserve the peoples’ rights, property and safety. The grievance from the Declaration of Independence “He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good” explains that the colonists believe the King has refused to assent (or agree) to laws which are necessary for the public good. Based on the passage, it is reasonable to conclude that John Locke would have agreed a ruler who did not create laws to protect the public good was not fulfilling his duties.
6. The Articles of Confederation were written as the first plan of government for the United States. The Founding Fathers feared the tyranny a strong central government could encourage, so they restricted the powers of the new government. However, the weaknesses of the central government created several problems. These weaknesses included:
* Each state had one vote in the legislative branch.
* The government did not have an executive branch.
* **The government did not have a separate judicial branch.**
* Congress could not create taxes.
* Congress could not raise a national military separate from the states.
* Each state printed its own currency.
* Congress could not control trade between states and with other nations.
* New laws would require the support of nine of the 13 states, more than a majority.
* The Articles of Confederation required unanimous agreement of the states to amend the document.
1. One of the weaknesses of The Articles of Confederation was that the government did not have an executive branch. When Congress passed a law, the state governments were supposed to enforce it, but this did not always happen. The U.S. Constitution addressed this problem by creating an executive branch to enforce laws made by the U.S. Congress.
2. The first section of the Constitution describes the purpose of the document. We call this section the "Preamble." The Preamble describes the purpose and duty of government to its citizens. One of the duties of government listed in the Preamble is to “insure domestic tranquility”. Tranquility means to be free from commotion. Domestic refers to something inside a particular country. So, “insure domestic tranquility” best aligns with the statement “keep the homeland at peace”.
3. The Preamble reveals the concerns U.S. leaders had at the time. It also describes the purpose and duty of government to its citizens. The phrase "We the people" emphasizes that the government depends on people for its power and that the government exists to serve the people.
4. The Founding Fathers were afraid of a government with too much power, which it feared could power to take away people's basic rights. They believed in creating a limited and constitutional government. Therefore, the U.S. Constitution divides the powers of government into three separate branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. We call this the separation of powers. Some of the powers of each branch were designed to limit, or "check," the overall power of the other branches. The purpose of these checks is to balance the branches of government so that no one branch could become too powerful.

Example A is an example of checks and balances at work. The U.S. Supreme court (judicial branch) checked the power of the U.S. Congress (legislative branch) by declaring a law that they made unconstitutional. Example B shows separation of powers. The U.S. Congress (legislative branch) passed a law and the Internal Revenue Service (executive branch) enforces it. This is an example of how the U.S. Constitution divides the powers of government into three separate branches.

1. The term “checks and balances” describes a system where one branch of government may act to limit the power of the other branches to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. In the passage from Federalist 51 James Madison describes this principle by saying that the interior structure of government (i.e. the legislative, executive and judicial branches) must be the means of keeping each other in their proper places (i.e. not allowing one to become too powerful).
2. The Federalists believed in a strong, central government. They supported the Constitution as written and argued for immediate ratification. On the other hand, the Anti-federalists thought the new government proposed by the Constitution was too strong. They wanted to see a Bill of Rights added to protect state governments' power and the people's rights.
3. Rule of law is the principle that both those who govern and those who are governed must obey the law and are subject to the same laws. Rule of law affects government leaders and groups in many ways. Everything they do must be based on the law, and they are accountable for their decisions.
4. Many different types of governments exist around the world. Each nation's government establishes control over its territory and people through law. No two nations' governments and laws are exactly the same. One type of government is a democracy, where everyone has decision-making power. A democracy can either be direct or indirect. In a direct democracy, everyone gets a vote on every major decision. This type works best for small groups. There is also an indirect democracy (also called a representative democracy or republic). This is the type of government of the United States. In an indirect democracy, the people elect a few individuals to represent them. The people trust those elected officials to make decisions in their best interest. If they don't, the people can elect new representatives.
5. A citizen is a legal member of a state or country. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution defines U.S. citizens as people who are “born or naturalized in the United States”.
6. Each year, thousands become naturalized U.S. citizens. In 2008, the number passed one million! Just like natural born citizens, naturalized citizens have the right to vote in elections. The graph shows that many citizens have chosen to become naturalized citizens, therefore it can be inferred that naturalization leads to larger pool of voters.
7. Responsibilities of citizenship include community expectations. Good citizens choose to meet these expectations. Americans have specific ideas about what good citizenship means. Influencing government, voting, showing support for troops, helping other people, showing respect for leaders and symbols and protecting rights are some of these expectations of citizenship. Fulfilling these responsibilities helps secure the common good.
8. This is an illustration of a citizen’s tax return. Good citizens can support the common good at each level of government. Paying taxes is one way to help the government improve society for its citizens. Federal taxes help pay for things like military defense, health care programs, and protecting national landmarks. State taxes help pay for education, highways, environmental protection programs. Local taxes help pay for things like roads, police and fire protection, local parks, and animal shelters.
9. The Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. It exists to protect Americans way of life. The First Amendment protects political and religious freedom, with the rights to speech, press, assembly, petition, and religion. Writing an opinion in a local paper and joining a church of your choice are protected by the First Amendment. The Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms, which means people can purchase and own guns and other weapons as long as they follow laws. A well-paying job, however, is not a right guaranteed by the Constitution.
10. The Fifth Amendment has several parts. It protects the rights of those accused of crimes, but also includes a line about property in general. The last line says "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." It safeguards people against government taking their property. However, the legal limit to this right is "eminent domain". This phrase means the government has the power to claim the property for public use (like for a public park or roadway) after paying the owners a fair price for it.
11. The Amendments that apply to this case are Amendment I and Amendment VI. The First Amendment protects political and religious freedom, with the rights to speech, press, assembly, petition, and religion. Speaking out against a government official is tied to the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. The Sixth Amendment protects the right to legal counsel and to present evidence in their own defense. If Ben was denied a lawyer, his Sixth Amendment right was violated.
12. The First Amendment protects most speech or expression, but not all. Though Americans have freedom of expression, they may not use that freedom in a way that harms the rights of others. Some of these limits are related to giving false information such as slander and libel. Both of these mean sharing information that is not only false, but also harmful to a person's reputation or position in the community. The difference is that slander is spoken aloud while libel is printed. An example could be a newspaper printing a made-up story saying a Senator cheated on a law school exam. The Senator’s reputation was hurt, and he could sue the newspaper for libel.
13. The Founding Fathers wrote the First Amendment to cover the many situations where people express ideas. This right is critical to active citizenship. Without it, people might not be free to bring concerns to leaders or discuss solutions to public issues. If the First Amendment were not in place, laws could be passed that would punish people for complaining, whether through making a speech, publishing an article on a news site, or chatting at a community event. Protecting free expression encourages people to be active participants in government. It helps ensure that government leaders continue to serve and respond to the needs of the people.
14. The U.S. Constitution protects the right to freely express beliefs and ideas without needless government limits. Free speech ensures the free flow of information and ideas. This can be seen in on the nightly news, on the internet, or even in your favorite work of fiction. Societies where free speech is protected have access to more information and as a result are more informed.
15. Prior to 1972, most states required voters to be at least 21 years of age. In this year, the 26th Amendment passed, lowering the voting age to 18. Americans thought that people who were old enough to marry, fight in a war, and own a business ought to be able to vote as well.
16. In the five years following the Civil War, states ratified the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. These three amendments changed the Constitution to establish former slaves as U.S. citizens, giving them the same protections and rights as other citizens. The 15th Amendment protects the right of citizens to vote no matter their race or skin color. However, some states used literacy tests and other regulations intended to discourage minorities from exercising their right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned such practices, protecting the right to vote for all citizens.
17. Brown vs. Board of Education was decided in 1954 by the United States Supreme Court. Parents in Kansas challenged laws that allowed separate schools for children of different races. The United States Supreme Court ruled that “separate but equal facilities” were fundamentally unequal. This decision reversed the earlier decision in Plessy vs. Ferguson and declared racial segregation illegal. The federal government ordered that states must integrate formerly segregated classes.
18. In the Supreme Court case Miranda v. Arizona, the court examined the rights protected in the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Ernesto Miranda was arrested after a crime victim identified him in a police lineup. The police officers questioning him did not inform him of his Fifth Amendment right that prevents government from forcing citizens to give evidence against themselves. He also was not informed of his Sixth Amendment right to the assistance of an attorney. In 1966, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case and ruled in favor of Miranda. As a result, police officers now read the Miranda warning to suspects before they are arrested. This helps ensure suspects understand they have the right to not answer questions, or say anything at all, if they choose. However, if a suspect chooses to speak despite the Miranda warning, what they say could be used in court. The Miranda warning also explains that suspects have the right speak to an attorney.
19. In general, members of the Democratic Party are more likely to see ensuring the people’s wellbeing as a responsibility of the government. They are more also likely to create new government programs, which may require increased taxes to pay for them. Republicans generally believe that it is the people’s own responsibility to ensure their well-being. They tend to limit government programs and taxes.
20. A voter concerned about rising unemployment would more likely vote for Aleksi Alho. Aleski’s poster shows he is campaigning on the platform of reducing unemployment by bringing jobs back to the state.
21. According to the information on the posters, Petra could be considered more qualified than Aleksi because she has more political experience. Petra served two-terms as a mayor and was the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Aleksi has severed as a member of the state economic advisory board, but does not have experience as an elected official.
22. Lela’s best options are on-line petitions and letters to citizens. These are both indirect lobbying methods, are low to moderate in cost, and can meet her deadline of a month from now.
23. Media means the various means of sharing information. Examples include television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet. Some Americans say the media are the "watchdogs" of government. They mean that the media help inform the people what their officials are doing.
24. Propaganda is information an organization or government sends out to promote a policy, idea, or cause. In this poster the government is illustrating the negative impact they believe communism would have on America.
25. Many people think of the word “propaganda” as something bad, but its original meaning is neutral. Propaganda promotes a policy, idea, or cause. It could promote popular or unpopular ideas. This poster is promoting the fact that there is room for millions of immigrants in California and all that the state has to offer.
26. When creating a plan to address a community issue, citizens should first learn as much as they can about the problem. Next, they should identify and evaluate potential solutions and public policy alternatives. Then, citizens should choose the best public policy alternative and create an action plan to have that policy implemented. Flora’s last step should be to share her action plan with officials, proposing the health department offer a low-cost vaccination clinic.
27. Based on Evelyn’s charts the average base monthly bill for residents if the City Department of Sanitation Trash Service is used will be $30. If the Refuse Company is used it will cost residents $32 a month. The other arguments aren’t supported by the information available in the charts.
28. People have different ideas about how to address challenges. This is often the case because they approach issues from different perspectives. The first view represents the perspective of a small business owner. During a slow economy, when people are spending or buying less, small businesses can struggle to make a profit. If the minimum wage is raised and they must pay their employees more, small businesses may suffer. The second view represents the perspective of an employee making the minimum wage who works full time and is still struggling to support her family. If her wages are raised she will have more income and be better be able provide for her family’s basic needs. We can conclude from their views that a slow economy puts strains on both business owners and their employees.
29. Carlos would likely vote yes on the construction of a new hospital because he is an owner of a medical supply company and he would profit from supplying the new hospital with his merchandise.
30. Government decisions that affect programs and people *outside* the United States are foreign policies. Lifting an oil embargo on another country is an example. The other options are all examples of domestic policy. Domestic policy includes the decisions, laws, and programs that address issues *within* a country.
31. Working as a member if UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) is one way citizens can participate in an international organization. The Economic and Social Council of the UN manages many programs, including UNICEF. This program helps children and mothers in developing countries by providing food, medical care, and education.
32. In his speech to Congress, President Johnson declared that a threat to any nation in Southeast Asia was a threat to the people of the United States of America and the world as a whole. The use of the word “threat” is a clue that the president is talking about a military conflict. In fact, President Johnson is referring to conflict in Vietnam. The United States tried to contain communism, or keep it from spreading to other countries and threatening U.S. interests. President Johnson did send thousands of U.S. soldiers to the region in an attempt to stabilize it.
33. An autocracy is a government run by one person who possesses unlimited power. Saudi Arabia is an example of a modern autocratic government.
34. In a representative democracy citizens such as Kayla have an active role in making decisions. They elect their leaders. The leaders know that they must meet people's needs to stay in office. Leaders who do not represent voters well will not win re-election. In some places, voters have the power to remove elected officials from office before they are due for re-election.
35. The central government has the most power in a unitary system. In this system, decisions are made by the central government and apply to the whole country. Local governments (if they exist) implement the policies of the central government and may have some limited powers.
36. In a confederal system of government, the local and state governments share power with the central government (like in a federal system), however the state governments have final authority.
37. Presidents may meet and make agreements with foreign leaders called treaties. The Senate must ratify (or approve) these treaties. For example, in 2010 the U.S. Senate approved a treaty called “New START.” President Barack Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia agreed in this treaty to reduce and limit the amount of nuclear weapons.
38. When the president nominates someone to his cabinet, the Senate holds a hearing. In this hearing, the Senate asks the nominee questions. The Senate can approve or reject the president’s appointment. For examples, President Barack Obama nominated the former First Lady Hillary Clinton to be U.S. Secretary of State. On January 21, 2009, the Senate voted in favor of Clinton for the job.
39. The U.S. Constitution establishes the relationship between the national and state governments. It divides the powers of the federal and state governments into three categories: delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers. Regulating trade is a power delegated to the federal government only. Providing public welfare services, chartering banks, and borrowing money are examples of concurrent powers. These are shared between the federal and state governments. Powers reserved to the states include setting up schools and conducting elections, among others.
40. Article V (Five) of the Constitution describes two main steps to amend the Constitution. The first is "proposal." If two-thirds of Congress votes to propose the amendment idea, that means lawmakers will officially research and debate the idea. They will agree on official wording for the amendment. Alternatively, two-thirds of state legislatures can request a national convention. Then, two-thirds of attendees to that convention can vote for proposal.
41. The Founding Fathers knew it would be important for the Constitution to endure over time. People and societies change and the Constitution needed to be able to meet the country's needs as it grew. For example, amendments to the Constitution have expanded voting rights to ensure all citizens have a voice in government.
42. The executive branch has many powers and duties outlined in the U.S. Constitution, including appointing federal judges. Declaring acts unconstitutional is a power of the judicial branch. The powers to ratify treaties and impeach judges belong to the legislative branch.
43. The structure of the federal and state court systems is very similar. At both levels, trials will begin in the court of original jurisdiction. An appeal of the trial decision would go to an appellate court, or court of appeals. After the state-level court of appeals comes the state-level court of last resort. Many states name their highest court a "supreme court," but not all. The U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court, or the court of final authority over all other courts, state or federal. This court may hear not only cases from federal courts of appeal, but also cases appealed from a state's Supreme Court.
44. In Florida, small-claims courts resolve civil disputes for amounts less than $5000. Claude’s case against the protestors would be heard first in his local small-claims court.
45. The Florida Constitution is very similar to the U.S. Constitution, but differs in several ways. For example, the Florida Constitution establishes a Commission on Ethics, a group of nine appointed people who serve two-year terms. They oversee and write rules for proper behavior of state officials and employees. The commission also investigates complaints against state officials or employees.
46. Nearly 40,000 counties, municipalities, and townships exist across the United States. Their services vary according to state laws and the needs and desires of the community. In general, they arrange law enforcement, waste management, fire protection, local infrastructure, and other services important to our daily lives. Delivering mail and minting coins are roles of the federal government. State governments determine the requirements for professional workers, like doctors and teachers, and grant their licenses.

Source: FLVS.net – Florida Virtual School