SS.7.C.1.7
Describe how the Constitution limits the powers of government through separation of powers and checks and balances.

This material is adapted from resources developed by the Center for Civic Education.

SS.7.C.1.7 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will analyze how government power is limited by separation of powers and checks and balances.

To prevent the government from abusing its powers, the U.S. Constitution is organized around a separation of powers system that utilizes checks and balances. The power to make laws, enforce laws, and interpret laws is separated into three different branches of government while the government is further limited by checks and balances by allowing each branch to check or restrain the powers of the other two branches. These are ways that each branch can limit the power of the other two branches.

**Source:**