

A Government for Us!

What do you think our country would be like if there were no rules at all? What if people drove as fast as they wanted and took things that didn't belong to them? What if we had no president, judges, or congresspeople?

The rules we live by in our country are known as *laws*. They are listed in our United States Constitution. The Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787. The laws in the Constitution help keep us safe and make sure that we are provided with equal opportunities, but they aren't the only thing in the Constitution.



The processes for electing our federal government officials are also listed in the Constitution. Do you know how old you have to be in order to become the president? Well, the Constitution will tell you!

The Constitution outlines how our government works. As we explore this historic document, you will work with your fellow classmates to design a Student Government Constitution. Perhaps your constitution will be the future of our school!

A Government for Us! *Rubric*

	<i>Novice</i>	<i>Apprentice</i>	<i>Practitioner</i>	<i>Expert</i>
Preamble	- states claim for the need of a constitution - provides at least two reasons for why a constitution is needed - supports each reason with one or two facts or details	- states claim for the need of a constitution - provides two to three reasons for why a constitution is needed - supports each reason with at least two facts or details - explicitly refers to responsibilities of legislative, executive, and judicial branches	- states claim for the need of a constitution - provides three or more reasons for why a constitution is needed - supports each reason with at least two facts or details - implies responsibilities of legislative, executive, and judicial branches	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus: published and communicated to student body in a digital format
Legislative Branch	- names who will be included in the legislative branch - sets time frame for elections - establishes the number of representatives from each grade level or class - lists two to three powers of the legislature	- names who will be included in the legislative branch - identifies the branch as unicameral or bicameral - sets time frame for elections - establishes a minimum grade level for serving in the legislature - establishes the number of representatives from each grade level or class - lists three or more powers of the legislature	- names who will be included in the legislative branch - identifies the branch as unicameral or bicameral - sets time frame for terms and elections - establishes a minimum grade level for serving in the legislature and provides explanation for minimum age - establishes the number of representatives from each grade level or class - describes at least four powers of the legislature	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus: establishes a leader of the legislature and describes two or more of his/her responsibilities
Executive Branch	- names the titles of the executive branch members - sets time frame for elections - describes two or more powers and/or duties of the executive branch	- names the titles of the executive branch members - sets time frame for elections - establishes a minimum grade level for serving as an executive branch member - describes two to three powers and/or duties of the executive branch	- names the titles of the executive branch members - sets time frame for terms and elections - establishes a minimum grade level for serving as an executive branch member and provides explanation for minimum age - describes at least three powers and/or duties of the executive branch	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus: explains how executive branch members will be replaced if they move during the school year

Rights of Students	Bill of Rights includes: • one freedom • one limitation	Bill of Rights includes: • one freedom that would apply in class • one freedom that would apply outside of class (e.g., recess, lunchtime, etc.) • one limitation	Bill of Rights includes: • one freedom that would apply in class • one freedom that would apply outside of class (e.g., recess, lunchtime, etc.) • one limitation that would apply in class • one freedom that would apply outside of class (e.g., recess, lunchtime, etc.)	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus: includes a section for the rights of adults at the school
--------------------	--	---	--	---