

Power With Limits

Find constitutional principles in action.

SS.5.CG.1 "Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first mention of each of the six government principles in the passage.
Number them 1 through 6, then circle one detail that shows how each principle works.

How the Constitution Shares Power

- ① The Constitution is the highest law of the United States. Its rules apply to government leaders as well as other people. This is called rule of law. The Constitution also uses consent of the governed. Citizens elect representatives and vote for leaders. Limited government means that government has only the powers the Constitution gives it.
- ② To keep one part of government from holding all power, the Constitution separates power among three branches. Congress makes laws, the president carries out laws, and federal courts explain laws in cases. This is separation of powers. Checks and balances let each branch limit another branch. For example, a president may veto a bill, but Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds vote.
- ③ The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, protects individual rights. For example, the First Amendment protects freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition. These rights help people take part in public life and share ideas with government. Courts may decide whether a law violates the Constitution, which helps protect rights and supports the rule of law.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What do citizens do to show consent of the governed?

2 What does limited government mean, according to the passage?

3 Give one example of separation of powers and one example of checks and balances from the passage.

4 Which two principles are supported when courts decide whether a law violates the Constitution?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine a community center needs a rule for using its meeting room. Write 4 or 5 sentences that propose a rule and explain how it follows at least three constitutional principles from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the first mention of each of the six government principles in the passage. Number them 1 through 6, then circle one detail that shows how each principle works. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do citizens do to show consent of the governed?	They elect representatives and vote for leaders.
2	What does limited government mean, according to the passage?	Government has only the powers the Constitution gives it.
3	Give one example of separation of powers and one example of checks and balances from the passage.	Separation of powers: Congress makes laws, the president carries out laws, or federal courts explain laws in cases. Checks and balances: the president may veto a bill, and Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds vote.
4	Which two principles are supported when courts decide whether a law violates the Constitution?	Individual rights and rule of law.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The community center will let residents vote for three members of a room-use council. The council may set room hours, but it cannot make rules outside room use. Council members and visitors must follow the same posted rules. A separate review group can change a council rule that unfairly blocks peaceful meetings.

Accept equivalent wording for the principles and examples when it matches the passage. For the open task, accept reasonable community-center rules that accurately explain at least three constitutional principles.