# Powers in Print

Identify Congress's expressed powers in Article I

**USG.C.3.4.A** "Define and identify the enumerated (expressed) powers found in Article I."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the definition of an enumerated power, then number four different powers granted to Congress in the passage. Use your marks to connect each power to an action Congress could take.

### What Gives Congress That Power?

1 At a congressional hearing, lawmakers consider three proposals: new mail routes, a redesigned dollar coin, and one nationwide rule for becoming a U.S. citizen. Where does Congress get authority to act? Article I of the Constitution describes the legislative branch. Section 8 lists many powers granted to Congress in specific words. These are **enumerated powers**, also called **expressed powers**. To identify one, find an action the Constitution names as a power of Congress. A proposal may sound useful, but usefulness alone does not make it an expressed power. The specific constitutional wording matters.

2 For the mail proposal, Article I gives Congress power to establish post offices and post roads. It also grants Congress power to coin money and regulate its value, which connects to the dollar coin proposal. Congress can establish a uniform rule of naturalization, the process by which a person who was not a U.S. citizen at birth may become one. That authority fits the proposal for one nationwide rule about naturalization. These examples concern different subjects, but each has a named basis in Article I, Section 8. A policy goal alone does not identify the power behind it.

3 Other named powers address national needs. Congress may lay and collect taxes, provide and maintain a navy, raise and support armies, and declare war. These powers do not mean that Congress performs every government action. The president, rather than Congress, serves as commander in chief of the armed forces under Article II. A proposal to equip naval vessels could involve Congress's navy power and its taxing power, while a president might direct those forces. When reading a headline about government action, ask two questions: What action is proposed, and does Article I specifically grant Congress a power that matches it?

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What makes a congressional power enumerated or expressed, and where does the passage say these powers are listed?

2. Which expressed power supports a proposal for new mail routes? Explain the connection.

3. Lawmakers want to set the value of a redesigned dollar coin. Which expressed power applies?

4. Which expressed power supports one nationwide rule for how people who were not U.S. citizens at birth may become citizens?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Congress proposes equipping naval vessels and raising money to pay for them. In three sentences, name two Article I expressed powers that support this plan, explain how each fits, and contrast Congress's role with the president's role.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.3.4.A

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the definition of an enumerated power, then number four different powers granted to Congress in the passage. Use your marks to connect each power to an action Congress could take. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What makes a congressional power enumerated or expressed, and where does the passage say these powers are listed? | **It is a power granted to Congress in specific words. Many are listed in Article I, Section 8.** |
| 2 | Which expressed power supports a proposal for new mail routes? Explain the connection. | **Congress has the power to establish post offices and post roads. New mail routes connect to that power.** |
| 3 | Lawmakers want to set the value of a redesigned dollar coin. Which expressed power applies? | **The power to coin money and regulate its value.** |
| 4 | Which expressed power supports one nationwide rule for how people who were not U.S. citizens at birth may become citizens? | **The power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Congress's power to provide and maintain a navy supports equipping naval vessels. Congress's power to lay and collect taxes could raise money for those vessels. The president can direct the armed forces as commander in chief, but that role differs from Congress's listed powers.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the named Article I powers. For Part 3, look for two powers applied to the plan and an accurate distinction between Congress's powers and the president's commander-in-chief role.