

Power in Practice

Read how Virginia's government divides, uses, and limits power.

CE.3 "The student will apply history and social science skills to analyze how constitutional government functions at the state level by describing the structure and powers of the state government (the three branches of government)..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each term that names a government branch or body. In paragraph 2, number the main route a bill takes from introduction to enforcement.

Government at Work in Virginia

- ① At Virginia's Capitol, three branches share government power. The General Assembly, the legislative branch, includes the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia. It writes and passes laws. The governor leads the executive branch and carries out laws. Virginia's courts, the judicial branch, decide cases and explain what laws mean. This structure keeps one group from controlling every decision. A state constitution sets the framework for these branches, while local governments must follow state law.
- ② Suppose a delegate introduces a bill to require safer storage of drinking-water chemicals. A committee studies it and may change it, approve it, or stop it. If the bill passes both the House and Senate in the same form, it goes to the governor. The governor may sign it, veto it, or recommend amendments. The General Assembly can override a veto with a two-thirds vote in each house. After a law takes effect, executive agencies and regulatory boards can make detailed rules and enforce them.
- ③ Virginia shares power with the national government in a federal system. The national government handles powers given by the U.S. Constitution, such as coining money and national defense. States keep powers not given to the national government, including many rules for schools, elections, and public safety. When state and national laws conflict in an area where the national government has constitutional authority, national law is supreme. In Federalist No. 10, James Madison warned about factions. In Federalist No. 51, he argued that separated branches should check one another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name Virginia's three branches of government. What is one job of each branch?

2 Trace the bill in paragraph 2 from introduction through enforcement. Include one way the General Assembly can check the governor.

3 After a law takes effect, what can executive agencies and regulatory boards do?

4 How does federalism divide power between Virginia and the national government? Include the ideas from both Federalist No. 10 and Federalist No. 51.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a five- to seven-sentence example of a new Virginia law about a topic other than drinking-water chemicals. Explain its path through state government, the role of an executive agency or regulatory board, one check on power, and one connection to federalism or a Federalist essay.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each term that names a government branch or body. In paragraph 2, number the main route a bill takes from introduction to enforcement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name Virginia's three branches of government. What is one job of each branch?	Legislative, the General Assembly, writes and passes laws. Executive, led by the governor, carries out laws. Judicial, the courts, decides cases and explains laws.
2	Trace the bill in paragraph 2 from introduction through enforcement. Include one way the General Assembly can check the governor.	A delegate introduces a bill, a committee studies it, and both houses pass the same form. The governor acts on it. If the governor vetoes it, the General Assembly can override the veto with a two-thirds vote in each house. Agencies and boards make rules and enforce the law after it takes effect.
3	After a law takes effect, what can executive agencies and regulatory boards do?	They can make detailed rules and enforce the law.
4	How does federalism divide power between Virginia and the national government? Include the ideas from both Federalist No. 10 and Federalist No. 51.	The national government has powers given by the U.S. Constitution, while states keep powers not given to it. Valid national law is supreme when it conflicts with state law in an area of national constitutional authority. Federalist No. 10 warns about factions, and Federalist No. 51 supports separated branches checking one another.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A senator introduces a bill requiring new cosmetology shops to meet sanitation rules. A committee reviews the bill, and both houses must pass the same version before the governor can sign, veto, or recommend amendments. The Board for Barbers and Cosmetology could issue detailed rules and inspect licensed shops after the law takes effect. The governor's veto and the Assembly's possible two-thirds override are checks. Virginia can regulate shop safety, but it must follow valid national laws and the U.S. Constitution. This division of power follows Federalist No. 51 because branches can check one another.

Accept equivalent descriptions of branch powers, the bill process, and federalism that match the passage. For the open response, accept any plausible state-law example that includes all required elements and accurately describes a check or federalism connection.