



Citizenship in the Nation



Merit Badge Presentation by Tom Welch





Why Eagle Required

I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, and to help other people at all times.

Knowing our nation's history gives an appreciation for it, what it provides, the sacrifices made, and what can be done to protect it.

Every scout should know their rights, duties, and obligations as a citizen.



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Requirement Summary

1. Explain Citizenship
2. Visit 2 places (write about it)
3. News for 5 days (write about it)
4. Discuss 5 docs (write about them)
5. Six functions of government
6. Speech of national importance
7. Three branches of government
8. Letter to member of Congress



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Requirement 1

Explain what citizenship in the nation means and what it takes to be a good citizen of this country. Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen.





Requirement

1

Our Duties and Obligations

- **Respect rights, beliefs and opinions of others**
- **Obey the law**
- **Pay taxes**
- **Stay informed of the issues that affect our community**
- **Serve in a jury when called upon**
- **Participate in the democratic process. Vote in all elections.**
- **Defend the country if need should arise. Register for Selective Service.**
- **Protect the private property of others**



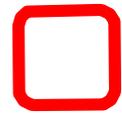
Requirement

1

Our Rights

- **Freedom of Religion**
- **Freedom of Speech**
- **Freedom of the Press**
- **The Right to Assemble**
- **The Right to Petition**
- **The Right to Bear Arms**
- **The Right to a Trial**





Requirement 2

Do TWO of the following:

- National Historic Landmark**
- State or US Capitol building**
- Federal Facility**
- National Monument**



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Requirement

2a

National
Historic
Landmarks

Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.





Requirement

2b

State or
US
Capitol
Building

Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and its history.





Requirement

2c

Federal Facility

Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.





Requirement

2d

National
Monument

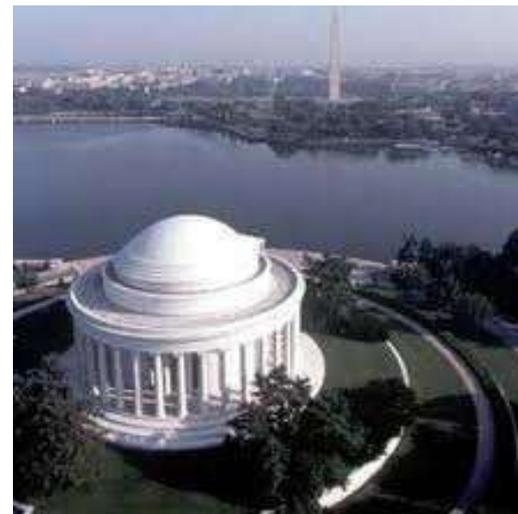
Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

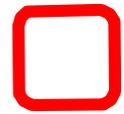


Name That Building



Name That Site





Requirement 3

Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.



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Requirement 4

Discuss each of the following documents with your counselor. Tell how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one.

- Declaration of Independence**
- Preamble to the Constitution**
- The Constitution**
- Bill of Rights**
- Amendments to the Constitution**



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Requirement

4

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.



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Declaration of
Independence

Page 1



Requirement

4

Declaration of Independence

Page 2

- He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
- He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
- He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
- He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
- He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
- He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
- He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
- He has obstructed the **Administration of Justice**, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.
- He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
- He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.
- He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
- He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.





Requirement

4

Declaration of Independence

Page 3

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For **Quartering large bodies of armed troops** among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of **Trial by Jury**:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.





Requirement

4

In every stage of these Oppressions **We have Petitioned** for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, **we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.**



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Declaration of
Independence

Page 4



Requirement

4/5

Preamble
to the
Constitution

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.





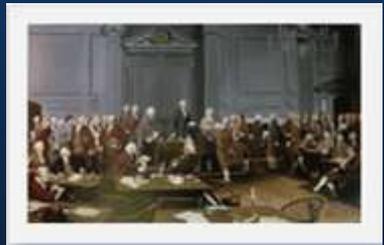
Requirement

4

The Constitution

Outlines the principals of our nation:

- **Popular sovereignty , people have supreme power**
- **Limited government, can only do what the people have empowered it to do**
- **Separation of powers, divided amongst three branches**
- **Checks and balances, each branch has authority and responsibility to check (restrain) the power of the other two**
- **Judicial review, federal courts have the power to review the acts of the other two**
- **Federalism, power is shared between national and local governments**



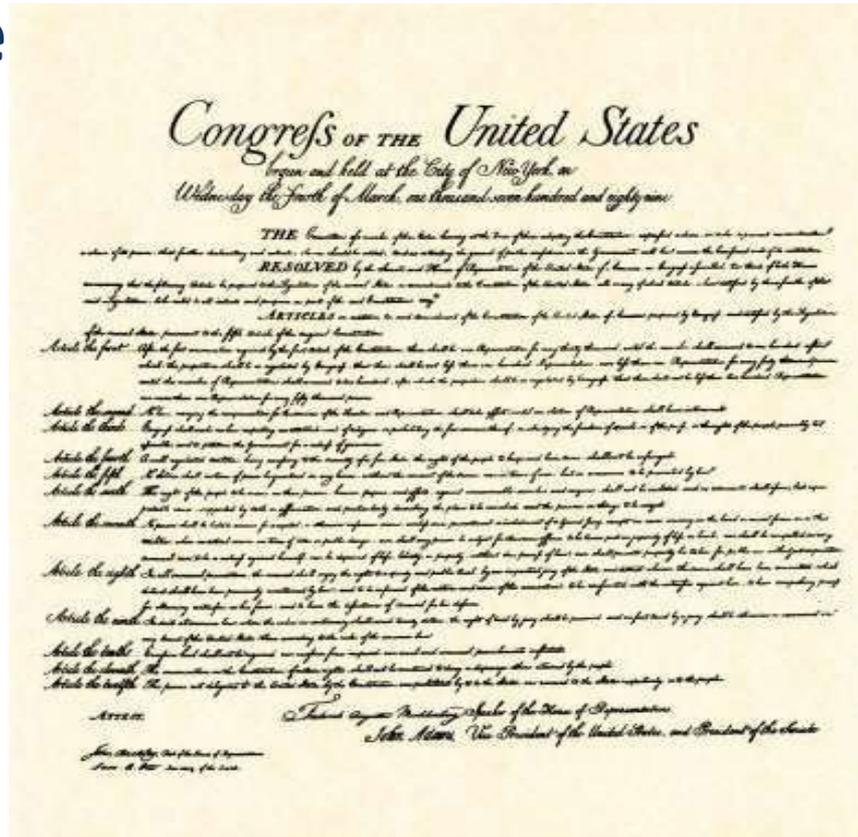
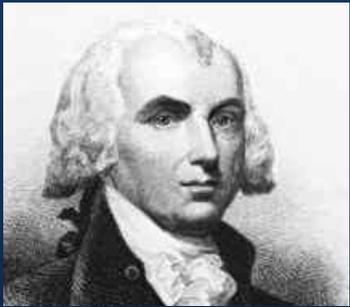


Requirement

4

Bill of Rights

First 10 amendments sponsored by James Madison guarantee individual rights and freedom



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Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

1

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of **religion**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of **speech**, or of the **press**; or the right of the people peaceably to **assemble**, and to **petition** the government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment I

- You can say what you want and believe any religion you want. The government can't put you in jail for any of these things.
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of the Press
- Freedom of Assembly



1791



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Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

2

Amendment II

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and **bear arms**, shall not be infringed.

Amendment II

A cartoon illustration of a soldier in a trench, wearing a green helmet and holding a rifle. The soldier is wearing a brown backpack and has a brown bag on the ground next to him. The background is a simple landscape with a brown sky and a black ground.

- Citizens have the right to a militia, and to keep and bear arms

1791





Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

3

Amendment III

No **soldier** shall, in time of peace be **quartered** in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment III

- Government can not take weapons away from people
- Prevents the government from housing soldiers in your home in peacetime and war time without your permission

1791



Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

4

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable **searches and seizures**, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment IV

- No unreasonable search and seizure
- Today that means that police must have a warrant to search your home



1791



Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

5

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without **due process** of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment V



- People have the right to due process, right to not self-incriminate themselves, and the right to not be tried twice for the same crime

1791



Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

6

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a **speedy and public trial**, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VI

- Speedy trial
- Fair Trial
- Public trials
- Impartial jury
- Right to an attorney in a criminal trial

An illustration of a courtroom scene. A judge in a black robe sits at a wooden bench on the right, with an American flag behind him. In the foreground, a group of diverse people sits in a wooden jury box. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

7



Amendment VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of **trial by jury** shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rule of law.

Amendment VII

- Right to a jury trial in all non criminal cases
- Prohibits retrial in any case already decided



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Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

8

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor **cruel and unusual punishments** inflicted.

Amendment VIII

- Excessive bail shall not be required
- Excessive fines shall not be imposed
- No cruel or unusual punishments is allowed





Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

9



Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment IX

- Just because a right is written into the constitution doesn't mean that the people do not have all other rights



1791





Requirement

4

Bill of
Rights

10



Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

Amendment X

- Powers not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution, nor prohibited to the states by it, are reserved to the states or to the people





Requirement

4

Amendments to the Constitution

11. **Suit Against States (1795)**
12. **Election of President and Vice-President (1804)**
13. **Abolition of Slavery (1865)**
14. **Privileges and Immunities, Due Process, Equal Protection, Apportionment of Representatives, Civil War Disqualification and Debt (1868)**
15. **Rights Not to Be Denied on Account of Race (1870)**
16. **Income Tax (1913)**
17. **Election of Senators (1913)**
18. **Prohibition (1919)**
19. **Women's Right to Vote (1920)**
20. **Presidential Term and Succession (1933)**
21. **Repeal of Prohibition (1933)**
22. **Two Term Limit on President (1951)**
23. **Presidential Vote in D.C. (1961)**
24. **Poll Tax (1964)**
25. **Presidential Succession (1967)**
26. **Right to Vote at Age 18 (1971)**
27. **Compensation of Members of Congress (1992)**





Requirement 5

List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the Constitution. Discuss with your counselor how these functions affect your family and local community.

- Form a more perfect Union
- Establish Justice
- Ensure Domestic Tranquility
- Provide for the Common Defense
- Promote the General Welfare
- Secure the Blessings of Liberty



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Requirement

5

Purpose and Power



A preamble states the purpose and objectives of a document. This Preamble was written in the belief that most people would not read the Constitution, and by having this opening phrase they would at least know the intent of the document. The rest of the Constitution explains how these objectives are to be met by various departments and layers of government.

WE THE PEOPLE - The power of the Constitution is

the power of the People who support it. Without the vigilance of the People, our government is left to govern itself without the check and balance of citizens who will confront their representatives and ensure they follow Constitutional guidelines.

This Preamble lists the six goals and objectives of the federal government:



Requirement

5

Form a
more
perfect
Union

The government of the United States was operating under two different documents. The first, The Articles of Confederation, was in effect from March 1, 1781, when Maryland ratified it. The second, The Constitution, replaced the **Articles of Confederation** when it was ratified by New Hampshire on June 21, 1788.



Requirement

5

Establish Justice

The preamble to the United States Constitution is an introductory statement outlining the Constitution's purposes both fundamentally and guiding. The revolution against England involved many important aspects, which were all important to the American citizens. The U.S. government has a legal system that is expected to make fair decisions regarding citizens' problems. The need developed for a judicial system that could handle any disputes arising between states or a dispute arising from people whom resided in different states. This ensured that all persons would be treated fairly and equally and guaranteed that their rights would be respected by others. It ensured that no individual nor entity had was superior to civil and criminal statutes. Adding this phrase into the preamble of the Constitution helped the American citizens feel secure in knowing that they would have justice under the new constitution. This phrase was meant to establish a fair court system. The court system referred to is the one which protects citizens' rights in the court of law.





Requirement

5

Ensure
Domestic
Tranquility

It means that the Federal Government owes a duty to maintenance **law and peace** within the country with the help of the executive branch.

It is the duty of the Federal Government to ensure protection within the country from outside invasion and maintain peace and **harmony** between the different branches and levels of domestic and national governments.





Requirement

5

Provide for the Common Defense

Prior to the adoption of the Constitution, individual states were responsible for their own defense. The Articles of Confederation had previously sought to make the federal government responsible for defense, but in practice failed to do so. Lacking sufficient power and means to make and enforce federal policy, the federal government under the Articles of Confederation was unable to prevent states from engaging in their own foreign policy and diplomacy. Problems created under this system convinced leaders a **stronger central government** was needed, which included giving it the **unambiguous power and responsibility to defend the nation.**





Requirement

5

Promote
the
General
Welfare

Providing for the welfare of the general public is a basic goal of government. The preamble to the U.S. Constitution cites promotion of the general welfare as a primary reason for the creation of the Constitution. Promotion of the general welfare is also a stated purpose in state constitutions and statutes. The concept has sparked controversy only as a result of its inclusion in the body of the U.S. Constitution.

The first clause of Article I, Section 8, reads, "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States." This clause, called the General Welfare Clause or the Spending Power Clause, does not grant Congress the power to legislate for the general welfare of the country; that is a power reserved to the states through the Tenth Amendment. Rather, it merely allows Congress to spend federal money for the general welfare. The principle underlying this distinction—the limitation of federal power—eventually inspired the only important disagreement over the meaning of the clause.



Requirement

5

Secure the Blessings of Liberty

To secure the blessings of liberty means "to secure freedom." The "blessings" are to have the pursuit of happiness, freedom, or etc.

Do not get confused with Domestic Tranquility. Domestic tranquility is when the government has the power to prevent unlawful deed which cause harm to the self and to the society from occurring. An example would be putting down a riot.





Requirement 6

With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Find out about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.



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Requirement

6

Example Speeches

Abraham Lincoln - The Gettysburg Address
Barbara C Jordan - 1976 DNC Keynote Address
Barbara C Jordan - Statement on the Articles of Impeachment
Franklin D Roosevelt - First Inaugural Address
Franklin D Roosevelt - Pearl Harbor Address to the Nation
Franklin D Roosevelt - The Four Freedoms
Frederick Douglass - The Hypocrisy Of American Slavery
General Douglas MacArthur - Duty, Honor, Country
George C Marshall - The Marshall Plan
Harry S Truman - The Truman Doctrine
John F Kennedy - First Inaugural Address
John F Kennedy - Ich bin ein Berliner
Lyndon B Johnson - We Shall Overcome
Lyndon B Johnson - The Great Society
Malcolm X - The Ballot or the Bullet
Martin Luther King Jr - I Have A Dream
Martin Luther King Jr - I've Been to the Mountaintop
Martin Luther King Jr - Beyond Vietnam - A Time to Break Silence
Patrick Henry - Liberty or Death
Patrick Henry - Shall Liberty or Empire Be Sought
President George Washington - First Inaugural Speech
Richard M Nixon - Resignation Address to the Nation
Ronald Regan - A Time for Choosing
Ronald Regan - The Space Shuttle Challenger Tragedy Address
Theodore Roosevelt - The Man with the Muck-rake
William Jennings Bryan - Cross of Gold Speech





Requirement

6

Choose & Write

- **Choose a speech**
- **Write 1 double spaced pages (250 words) discussing the following:**
 - **What speech did you choose?**
 - **Why does it interest you?**
 - **Why was it important when given?**
 - **How does it apply to citizens today?**
 - **Choose a sentence or two and explain why it has significant meaning to you.**





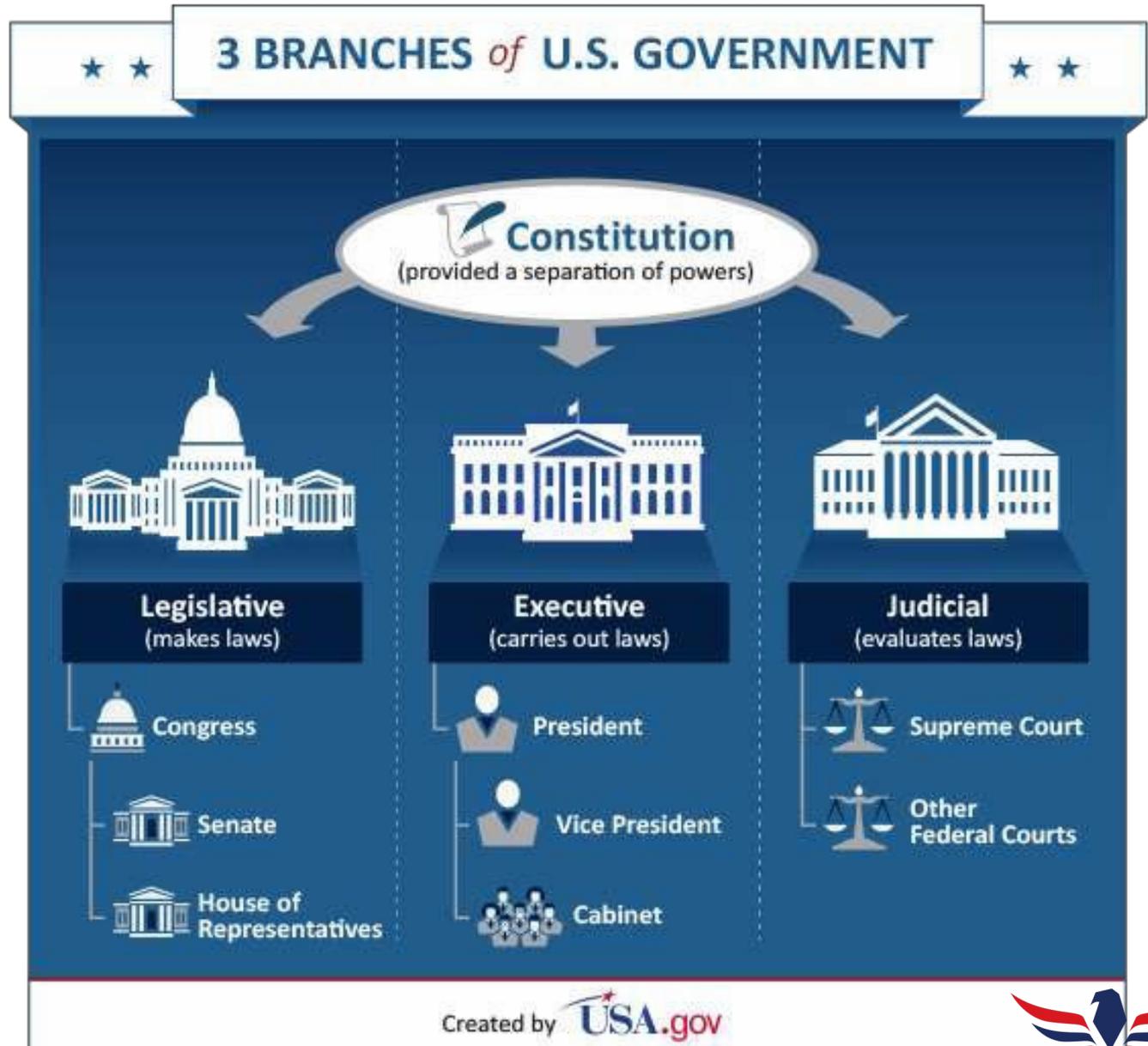
Requirement 7

Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions. Explain how citizens can be involved in each branch. Explain the importance of our checks and balances system. Describe how each branch “checks” and “balances” the others.



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The 3 Branches





Requirement

7

Executive Branch



The power of the Executive Branch is vested in the President of the United States, who also acts as head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The President is responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws written by Congress and, to that end, appoints the heads of the federal agencies, including the Cabinet. The Vice President is also part of the Executive Branch, ready to assume the Presidency should the need arise.

The Cabinet and independent federal agencies are responsible for the day-to-day enforcement and administration of federal laws. These departments and agencies have missions and responsibilities as widely divergent as those of the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Social Security Administration and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Including members of the armed forces, the Executive Branch employs more than 4 million Americans.





Requirement

7

Legislative



Established by Article I of the Constitution, the Legislative Branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form the United States Congress. The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, the right to confirm or reject many Presidential appointments, and substantial investigative powers.





Requirement

7

Judicial

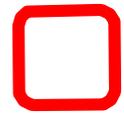


Where the Executive and Legislative branches are elected by the people, members of the Judicial Branch are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Article III of the Constitution, which establishes the Judicial Branch, leaves Congress significant discretion to determine the shape and structure of the federal judiciary. Even the number of Supreme Court Justices is left to Congress — at times there have been as few as six, while the current number (nine, with one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices) has only been in place since 1869. The Constitution also grants Congress the power to establish courts inferior to the Supreme Court, and to that end Congress has established the United States district courts, which try most federal cases, and 13 United States courts of appeals, which review appealed district court cases.

Federal judges can only be removed through impeachment by the House of Representatives and conviction in the Senate. Judges and justices serve no fixed term — they serve until their death, retirement, or conviction by the Senate. By design, this insulates them from the temporary passions of the public, and allows them to apply the law with only justice in mind, and not electoral or political concerns.





Requirement 8

Name your two senators and a member of Congress from your congressional district. Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her. Show your letter to your counselor, along with any response you might receive.

