

US GOVERNMENT

Practice 1: How to Read the Constitution

The Constitution is organized into 3 basic parts.

-Articles

-Sections

-Clauses

Example : Article I, Section 2, Clause 1, or I-2-1

ARTICLE I: Legislative Branch

Section 1. Legislative powers; in whom vested

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. House of Representatives, how and by whom chosen Qualifications of a Representative. Representatives and direct taxes, how apportioned. Enumeration. Vacancies to be filled. Power of choosing officers, and of impeachment.

- 1. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States, and the elector in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature.*
2. No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

7 Articles of the Constitution

Article I- Legislative Branch (Congress)

Article II- Executive Branch (President)

Article III- Judicial Branch (Supreme Court)

Article IV- Relations among the states

Article V- How to amend (change) the Constitution

Article VI- Supremacy of National Law, Oath of Office, National Debt

Article VII- Ratification of the Constitution

Practice 1: Constitution Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Use the Constitution Handout to complete the scavenger hunt.

1. What is the **opening paragraph** of the Constitution called?

2. Which **Article** deals with the **Executive branch**?

3. Who is the **Chief Executive** of the United States?

4. How many years is a **term of office for the Chief Executive**?

5. Give the **article, section, and clause** where you would find the qualifications to be Chief Executive.

6. What are the **3 qualifications of the Chief Executive**?
 - 1.

 - 2.

 - 3.

7. What does **section 4 of Article II** talk about?

8. Which part of government is established in **Article III**?

9. In Article III, which **section and clause** has the areas of **original jurisdiction** this court?

10. What is the definition of **treason** according to the U.S. Constitution? (**Article III**)

11. How many **Articles** are there in the Constitution?

12. Which **Article** talks about the **Legislative branch** of government?

13. What is the name of the group that holds **legislative power (make laws)**?

14. Name the **two houses of the Legislative branch (Congress)**.

1.

2.

15. Which **article, section and clause** of the Constitution gives the qualifications to be in the House of Representatives?

16. What are the **qualifications to be in the House of Representatives**?

1.

2.

3.

17. Go to **section 3, clause 4 of the article found in question 15** and tell who the **President of the Senate** is.

18. What are the **qualifications to be a Senator**?

1.

2.

3.

19. What is the **term of office** for a member of the **Senate**?

20. What is a **term of office** for a member of the **House of Representatives**?

21. What does **Article VI** deal with in general?

22. In which **article, section, and clause** would you look to find out about the extradition of suspected criminals?

23. At the time the Constitution was written, **how many of the 13 states needed to approve of the Constitution** to get it ratified?

24. Which **Article tells how to amend** the Constitution?

25. What does the word ***amend*** mean?

26. How **many times** has the **Constitution been amended**?

27. Which amendment created a national **income tax**?

28. Which amendment outlines a **citizen's right not to be searched in an unreasonable way**?

29. What is stated in the **1st Amendment**?

30. What is stated in **the last (27th) Amendment**

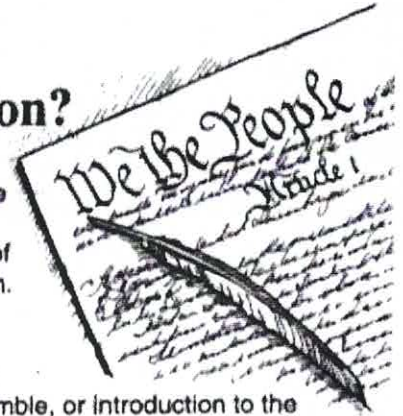
Practice 2: Preamble to the Constitution- LG 9

Name _____

What Is a Constitution?

A constitution is a plan of government. It describes the kind of government a nation is to have and how that government is to be organized. It also explains the powers of those in control and lists the rights of the citizens they govern. Most countries have constitutions.

The Constitution of the United States is a unique document that has survived for over two hundred years. It is the reason Americans enjoy so many freedoms. In the Preamble, or introduction to the Constitution, the Founding Fathers named the six goals of the document.



Listed below are the six goals the writers of the Constitution included in the Preamble. Describe what you think each one means. Use a dictionary to find the meanings of any words you don't know.

1. To form a more perfect Union _____

2. To establish justice _____

3. To insure domestic tranquility _____

4. To provide for the common defense _____

5. To promote the general welfare _____

6. To secure the blessings of liberty _____



LG 9 – Principles of the U.S. Constitution

| <u>Principle</u> | <u>What is it?</u> | <u>Why is it important?</u> |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Checks and Balances</i> | | |
| <i>Flexibility (living Constitution)</i> | | |
| <i>Federalism</i> | | |
| <i>Individual Rights</i> | | |
| <i>Limited Government</i> | | |
| <i>Popular Sovereignty</i> | | |
| <i>Separation of Powers</i> | | |
| <i>Republicanism</i> | | |