



2017-2018

We the People

Middle School Questions

for the Simulated Congressional Hearing

Unit 1

What are the fundamental characteristics of a constitutional government?

- In what ways does constitutional government mean limited government?
- Describe at least three ways the Constitution provided a means of preventing the abuse or misuse of governmental power. Explain how these provisions work in our system of government today.

Unit 2

How would you explain the meaning of the rule of law?

- How do America's founding documents express the nation's commitment to the rule of law?
- How would you distinguish between the characteristics of a society that operates under the rule of law and one that does not?

Unit 3

How does Article III of the Constitution (judicial branch) address the complaints against the King in the Declaration of Independence?

- What are the powers of the judicial branch?
- What checks exist on the judicial branch?
- How would you distinguish the judicial branch from the other branches of government?



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Unit 4

What were the major differences between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists?

- How did the arguments of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists reflect their points of view regarding natural rights, republicanism, and the powers of the states?
- Why are the Federalist and Anti-Federalist debates still relevant today?

Unit 5

Why have First Amendment rights been viewed as essential to the functioning of a free society?

- In what ways have these rights been of particular importance to women and minorities?
- Although First Amendment rights are considered essential in a constitutional democracy, it is sometimes argued that these rights must be limited. Under what circumstances, if any, do you think limitations are justified? Explain your answer.

Unit 6

What do you think are the greatest challenges of American citizenship today?

- Why and how does constitutional democracy in the United States depend on the active participation of its citizens?
- Distinguish between the responsibilities and obligations of citizens. Provide examples of each.