



THE CONSTITUTION AND YOU

PRIMARY DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Middle School Edition

Instructions

This exercise will familiarize students with the United States Constitution through analysis of relevant primary sources from the National Archives Catalog. Review and discuss this collection of primary documents using the following steps:

- 1. Meet the document.
- 2. Observe its parts.
- 3. Try to make sense of it.
- 4. Use it as historical evidence.

Students may also be asked to complete <u>Document</u>
<u>Analysis Worksheets</u> provided by the National Archives and Records Administration for each primary document.

For each document, answer these three questions:

- 1. Provide document description or title if known.
- 2. What Constitutional Power or Amendment is represented (refer to <u>National Archives</u> <u>transcription</u>)?
- 3. What check or balance is there to this power?
 OR
 Why is this relevant to me?

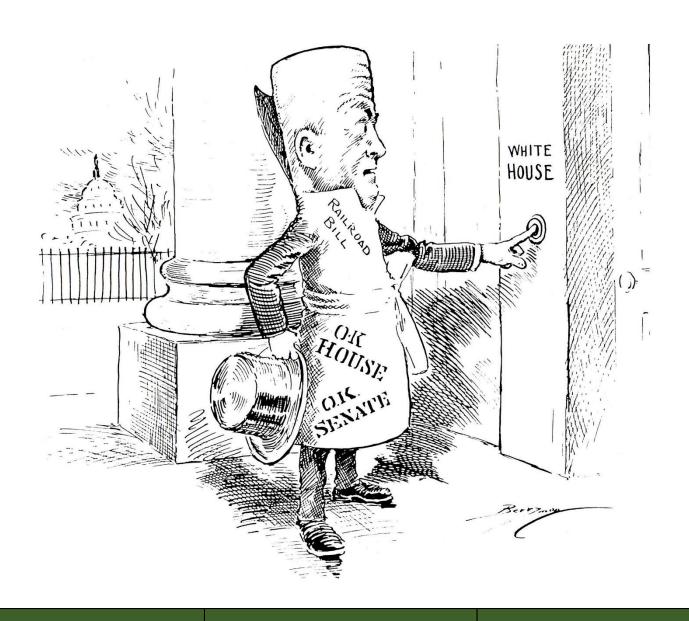


Document Description

Constitutional Power

Check or Balance

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Document Description	Constitutional Power	Check or Balance



Document Description	Constitutional Amendment	Relevance to Me

Document Description

Constitutional Power

Check or Balance

THE WHITE HOUSE

april, 1978

To Sanator

As President I want to
express my admiration for your
support of the Panama Canal
treates. Rarely is a national
feader called upon to act
on such an important issue
freight with so much potential
palitical sacrifice.

the United States I thank epoch of states of stand demon. I states manship and palitical laurage.

Timeny Carter

Document 18

(Note: Typical of many personal notes of thanks written by President Carter after the treaty was ratified.)

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Document Description

Constitutional Power

Relevance to Me

Instructor Notes & References

Document	Citation/Archives.gov Identifier	Constitution Reference (https://www.archives.gov/founding- docs/constitution-transcript)	Check/Relevance
Tally Sheet of the House of Representatives Vote on a Declaration of War Against Japan	Tally Sheet of the House of Representatives for Declaration of War Against Japan; 12/8/1941; General Records, 1791 - 2010; Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Record Group 233; National Archives Building, Washington, DC NARA Identifier: 2600932	Article I, section 8, clause 1	Provides Congress the power to declare war; Americans vote for these representatives Denies President power to declare war unilaterally
Anyone Home?	Anyone Home?; 2/24/1920; (M-023); Berryman Political Cartoon Collection, 1896 - 1949; Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46; National Archives Building, Washington, DC	Article I, section 7	Both chambers of Congress must agree on final bill President may approve or veto a bill Can a President just ignore a passed bill?

Photo of County Clerk "Bun" Towner Swearing-in a Trial Jury in the Court House	Photograph of County Clerk "Bun" Towner Swearing-in a Trial Jury in the Court House; ca. 1945; Records of the U.S. Information Agency, Record Group 306 NARA Identifier: 595379	Fifth Amendment; Grand Jury, Double Jeopardy, Self-incrimination, Due Process, Takings Seventh Amendment; Civil Trial Rights	Is a veto the end of the road for a bill? American citizens have the right to be judged by a jury of their peers You can't be tried for the same crime twice
Letter to U.S. Senators from President Carter, April, 1978; following ratification of the Panama Canal Treaties	Letter to U.S. Senators from President Carter; April 1978; Records of the Office of the Staff Secretary, 1976-1981; Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Available online at: https://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/assets/documents/panama/document18.pdf	Article II, Section 2	Requires cooperation between Executive and Legislative Branches Major aspect of foreign relations impacting commerce, cultural exchange, military conflict
Save Freedom of Worship (Norman Rockwell painting from "The Four Freedoms")	Save Freedom of Worship; 1941 - 1945; Records of the Office of Government Reports, Record Group 44 NARA Identifier: <u>513712</u>	First Amendment; Freedom of Religion, Press, Assembly, Petition	Practice any religion freely without persecution from government