

PRINCIPLES

One of the key principles in the Constitution is the people, state and national government holding power, but not too much so that one side could gain unhealthy amounts of power.

This is reflected in our system of 3 branches:

- The legislative branch contains House members chosen by the people. The number of house reps starts at 1 and goes up as more people are in a state.
- The legislative branch also contains the Senate which is two reps per state; the original intention was that the state would choose senators but we choose them as people now.
- Finally, the branch also has a bunch of committees of 10-40 people that focus on certain topics and their relations to lawmaking. These people are all to serve the interests of the people and conduct research as to what would benefit the nation the most.

- The executive branch consists of the President and a few departments under their control, as well as a cabinet of advisors.
- We elect the president every four years, however, the departments and advisors are picked by the president. (probably)
- The agencies run by the government (not just the exec branch) often maintain public records and are open to reporting of misuses of power and whatnot.

- The judicial branch consists of the national court system and is heavily tied to local court systems. One of the precedents set is that they are to stay out of partisan politics.
- Their purpose is to vote on whether or not to shoot down a law because it is unconstitutional.
- Someone can appeal all the way to the Supreme Court if they believe their trial was not fair or they just want a redo.

FEDERALIST 51 SUMMARY: (most likely wrong so look up the sparknotes version later)

- "If men were angels no government would be necessary."
- Separating powers can be implemented by making sure that each of the branches is under the same government but also differing in election process, job, etc.
- Our modern checks and balances allow each branch to interact with the other branches, however, disconnecting the branches and making sure that one branch cannot wholly decide how another branch functions can help; in other words, it's a web not a pyramid.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

- Each branch has the power to regulate the other two branches.
- "Big Idea; The Us Cons. establishes a system of checks and balances among branches of government and allocates power between federal and state governments. This system is based on the rule of law and the balance between majority rule and minority rights.