

1 | What arguments can you give for and against the use of the Electoral College to select the president? In thinking about your response, consider the following facts: On five occasions in American history- 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000 and 2016- the presidential candidate who won the popular vote did not win the Electoral College vote. On other occasions - including 1860, 1912, and 1992- the candidate who won the most popular votes did not win an absolute majority of the popular vote but won a significant majority in the Electoral College.

- For:
 - The American people do not know what is best for them, so let the "educated" electors vote for the president
 - Gives more power to smaller states
 - It is easier to count the votes of the electors compared to the votes of the American public
- Against:
 - It is not always representative of the population of the United States (see the examples provided in the question above), and thus is less democratic
 - Now, presidential elections only depend on a couple of key "battle ground" states and not on the general opinion of the US.
 - Some people's votes are worth less than others
 - does not take into account the difference in votes

2 | What are the advantages and disadvantages of having judges appointed, not elected to serve "During good behavior"?

- Advantage:
 - the judges do not have to make decisions based on the opinion of the people that voted them in, they can focus on making a decision that is morally correct.
- Disadvantage:
 - The president will appoint a judge that is of their political party, so the decision making of the Supreme Court is dependent on who dies when.

3 | Should the composition of the Supreme Court be required to reflect the political, economic, racial, ethnic, geographical and gender diversity of our country? Why or why not?

- I think that the composition of the Supreme Court should reflect the political, economic, racial, ethnic, geographical and gender diversity of our country, because the decisions that they make will impact

people off all of those identity groups, and thus all of those groups need to be a part of the interpretation process.

4 | Should the Constitution be amended to require judges to retire at a specific age or after a certain number of years as a judge?

- I think that there should be a upper age limit, because older people don't have to live with the consequences of their decisions.

5 | It has been argued that the judiciary is the least demoractic branch of our national government. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- I agree, because to become a judge you are not elected into your position, so you do not reflect the popluation of the US. But at the same time, just because the branch is not democratic, it does not mean the branch is bad. I think the Framers intetionally made hte judiciary branch undemocratic so that they could focus on "morality" over the opinion of the United States.

6 | In what ways do the limitations on the national and state governments protect individual rights?

- The limitations prevent both the national and state governments from getting too much power, and thus protect indivual rights.

7 | How did the delegates at the Philadelphia Convention deal with the issue of slavery? Why did they choose to take the approach they did?

- they avoided the issue and gave states the power to make the decision, likely because the topic was highly controversial and might have prevented states from joining the United States.

8 | Please fill out the worksheet regarding The Three Branches of Government.

Name Peter C Date _____

Questions for Reflection

- What is the purpose of having three branches of government?
To have a form of government that represented the people while preventing any person or group of people from getting too much power.
- What branch would the governor of a state belong to? Why?
Executive, because the governor is in charge of "executing" enforcing the laws in a state
- Name two advantages to limiting terms of government offices:
1) they keep pressure on congress people to vote for their constituents
2) you get younger people in congress
- Complete the chart:

FEDERAL OFFICE TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS

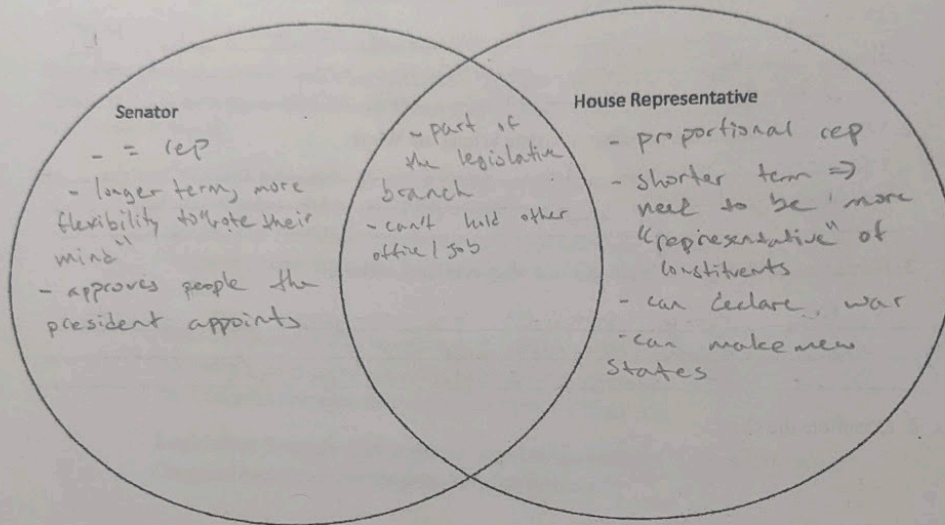
	Term Limit years, terms	Minimum Age	Residency Requirements	Citizenship Rules
President	4, 2	35	14 years	must be born in US
Supreme Court Justice	∞ , ∞	none	none	none
Representative	2, ∞	25	live in state they rep for	7 years
Senator	6, ∞	30	" "	9 years

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Name Peter C

Date _____

5. Compare and contrast a House Representative to a Senator:



Open-Response:

In what ways are the Supreme Court and Congress alike? In what ways are they different? Give two details from the text to support how they are alike. Give two details from the text to support how they are different.

Different

- 1) Supreme Court does not have term limits (thus is more aimed at "moral correctness" over representation) & congress has term limits (thus is aimed at representation over "moral correctness")
- 2) congress is concerned with making laws & SCOTUS is concerned with interpreting the laws

Alike

- 1) work to make the laws of US
- 2) serve to make a checked & balanced government

9 | Please fill out the worksheet regarding Checks & Balances.

Name: Peter C Date: _____ Period: _____

Checks and Balances Worksheet

To keep each of the three branches from becoming too powerful, the Constitution provided a system of checks and balances on one another. On the space to the left, use Legislative, Executive, or Judicial to answer what branch of the U.S. government can exercise that power. On the space to the right, write which branch (or branches) is being checked.

1. <u>E</u> can veto a law.	<u>L</u>
2. <u>J</u> can declare laws unconstitutional.	<u>L</u>
3. <u>E</u> appoints judges to the Supreme Court.	<u>J</u>
4. <u>L</u> can override a veto with a 2/3 majority vote.	<u>E</u>
5. <u>L</u> can reject presidential appointments.	<u>E</u>
6. <u>E</u> may adjourn Congress in certain situations.	<u>L</u>
7. <u>J</u> may declare executive actions unconstitutional.	<u>E</u>
8. <u>L</u> may ratify or reject treaties.	<u>E</u>
9. <u>L</u> may propose constitutional amendments.	<u>E</u>
10. <u>L</u> has the power to impeach.	<u>E</u>
11. <u>L</u> may withhold funding for initiatives.	<u>E</u>
12. <u>L</u> approves judges to the Court.	<u>E</u>
13. <u>L</u> can order troops to be removed within 90 days.	<u>E</u>
14. <u>J</u> serve in this position for life so as to not be influenced.	<u>L</u>

15. ~~In one paragraph (7 sentences) please describe why checks and balances are so important for a government to work for the people. You can start your paragraph with the question: Why are checks and balances important for our democracy?~~

16. Create a chart showing how all three branches keep each other in check. Also list each major responsibility of each branch in the same chart.

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graph TD
    L[L] --> J[J]
    L[L] --> E[E]
    J[J] --> E[E]
    E[E] --> L[L]
  
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graph TD
    EXEC[EXECUTIVE] --> JUD[JUDICIAL]
    EXEC[EXECUTIVE] --> LEG[LEGISLATIVE]
    JUD[JUDICIAL] <--> LEG[LEGISLATIVE]
  
```