

[Peer Assessments \(https://class.coursera.org/conlaw-001/human_grading/\)](https://class.coursera.org/conlaw-001/human_grading/) / Essay 1 (Option 1)

[Help \(https://class.coursera.org/conlaw-001/help/peergrading?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclass.coursera.org%2Fconlaw-001%2Fhuman_grading%2Fview%2Fcourses%2F970970%2Fassessments%2F2%2Fsubmissions\)](https://class.coursera.org/conlaw-001/help/peergrading?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclass.coursera.org%2Fconlaw-001%2Fhuman_grading%2Fview%2Fcourses%2F970970%2Fassessments%2F2%2Fsubmissions)

due in 1day 3h

Submission Phase

1. Do assignment ☒ (/conlaw-001/human_grading/view/courses/970970/assessments/2/submissions)

Evaluation Phase

2. Evaluate peers  (/conlaw-001/human_grading/view/courses/970970/assessments/2/peerGradingSets)

Results Phase

3. See results  (/conlaw-001/human_grading/view/courses/970970/assessments/2/results/mine)

Your work was submitted. [Review your work \(https://class.coursera.org/conlaw-001/human_grading/view/courses/970970/assessments/2/submissions/953\)](https://class.coursera.org/conlaw-001/human_grading/view/courses/970970/assessments/2/submissions/953) to make sure everything looks OK.



✓ Submitted. You can still make changes and re-submit before the deadline.



In accordance with the Honor Code, I certify that my answers here are my own work, and that I have appropriately acknowledged all external sources (if any) that were used in this work.

[Re-submit for grading](#)

*Write a **500-750 word** essay response, making sure to address **ALL** parts of the question.*

In 1787, the Constitution was the largest-scale instance of a democratic form of self-government in the history of the planet.

- What specific provisions or features of the Constitution best exemplify or demonstrate the embodiment of the value of democracy?
- How were these features uniquely democratic compared to other forms of government at the time, such as the monarchy and Parliament of England, or under the Articles of Confederation?

Democracy is a government in which all eligible citizens participate equally either directly or indirectly through elected representatives, in the proposal and creation of laws. The provisions of the Constitution that exemplify the embodiment of the value of democracy are as follows.

When the preamble stated “We the people of the United States...do ordain and establish this Constitution...”, in the 1780's did more than promise popular self-government. It was the most democratic deed the world had ever seen.

Ordinary people on juries would hear sides of an argument and make a decision in court. Juries of ordinary people would counterbalance judges in the Judicial branch. The House of Representatives was elected by people with no property qualification, nor could this statute be added. The presidency and judgeships were open to men of merit regardless of lineage or wealth. Government servants in all three branches would receive a salary to prevent these offices only held by the independently wealthy. The minimum age rule for Congress helped prevent the wealthy from having these offices at a young age.

Every state was guaranteed to be a “Republican” or “Democratic” government, a government derived from people rather than aristocracy. To speed legislative reforms, the Constitution allowed people to form elected conventions to propose and ratify new constitutional rules. Religious hierarchies were not allowed to entrench the Federal Government or exclude religions. Representatives were chosen by the people and were per-capita according to the state's population (although including a percentage of slaves later considered unfair). No state was allowed to pass a bill of attainder, grant a title of nobility, or pass a post facto law. This prevented judging a person on birth status rather than on behavior.

There was no military funding for more than two years without a new vote, and they could do this by electing a new House. The national government could stop insurrection menacing a republican form of government for any state, but any scheme of national tyranny could be thwarted by an alliance of local militias led by state governments. Military hierarchies answered to democratically elected leaders and not vice versa.

Economic clauses stated that states could not unfairly tax out-of-state people. States could not coin money, emit bills of credit, make anything but gold or silver a coin of tender in debt payment, or pass any law prohibiting contract obligation.

President's serve for four years. The House was biennial, the Senate sextennial, and the Executive quadrennial, forming the separation and balance of powers.

You had to be a citizen at the time of your birth to be elected US President to prevent wealthy foreigners from buying their way to that office. The President as chief defender of the Constitution, can veto bills passed by Congress, forcing another vote. Congress could impeach President's if found untrustworthy.

There was one Supreme Court and other inferior courts. The Constitution stated the right to alter the Constitution with Amendments.

Words: 751 / 750

Note: this section can only be filled out during the evaluation phase.

On-Topic?
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Style and Organization
<div></div>
Strength of Argument
<div></div>
Use of Evidence
<div></div>
Engagement with Course Themes and Critical Thought
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Re-submit for grading

