

## **Limiting Government**

Time Needed: One Class Period

**Materials Needed:**Student worksheets

## **Copy Instructions:**

Reading (2 pages, class set)
Graphic Organizer (1 page, class set)
Worksheets (3 pages, class set)

**Learning Objectives.** Students will be able to:

- Describe five limits on government: constitution, separation of powers, rule of law, consent of the governed, and rights of the minority.
- Analyze how former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's presidential actions affected Peru's government limits.
- Evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of giving one leader total control.
- Apply the five limits to fictional government systems.

## STEP BY STEP

□ <b>A</b> NTICIPATE	by asking students to imagine a country ruled by one person. What powers would that person have? Can students think of any problems that might come up?
☐ DISTRIBUTE	the Limiting Government reading and the Five Limits on Government graphic organizer.
□ Read	the first page with the class, pausing to discuss the basic concepts outlined in the reading. After each paragraph, have students complete the blanks on their graphic organizers.
□ READ	the story of Alberto Fujimori with the class, stopping to check for understanding and clarify as needed.
□ Снеск	for understanding by doing the "5, 4, 3, 2, 1" Informal Assessment with the class. Watch for incorrect answers, and use each statement as an opportunity to quickly review the concept before moving on.
☐ DISTRIBUTE	the worksheets to the class.
□ Review	the instructions for the activities. For activity G (Guessing Game), make sure students know they can use their graphic organizers for help.
□ <b>A</b> SSIGN	students to complete the worksheets. If you have an interactive white board, consider projecting blank masters and completing some of the activities together as a class.
☐ REVIEW	the answers if you wish.
☐ CLOSE	by asking students to silently recall the five limits on government, without looking at their notes. Have them quiz a partner to recall all five.

This lesson plan is part of the *Foundations of Government* series by iCivics, Inc. a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing civic education. Please visit www.icivics.org/teachers, for more resources and to access the state standards aligned to this lesson plan. Send feedback to feedback@icivics.org.

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A constitution is	n Governmenx
Limits government	
• Tells how a count	ry's are made
Rights of the • Tells how gover	rnment
	means laws are and
/ rights of	and nobody is the law
of citi	/
Limits government like this:	The law applies to
Limits the power of the  Cons	• Even the
Makes sure everyone is treated  Rights of	must follow the law
Makes sure everyone is treated     The Minority	Rule of Law • There are procedures to make
• Protects even or	sure the law is
groups Consent of the	Separation of Power
Governed	Separation of power
Consent of the governed means	divides
citizens give their to be governed	
Limits government like this:	Limits government like this:
Citizens have the right to	No branch gets too much
Citizens can use their vote to	• Each branch can ""
the government	what the other branches can do
Citizens can even change the	Each branch is responsible
	for a different
by voting!	



## Informal Assessment: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

**Directions**: On the board, write the following:

Constitution	
Separation of Powers	4
Rule of Law	3
Consent of the Governed	
Rights of the Minority	1

Tell students you are going to read a series of statements. For each statement, they should tell you which of the limits on government is being described by holding up a hand showing the correct number of fingers.

- 1. Means that citizens give their permission to be governed. (2 Consent of the Governed)
- 2. Explains what kind of government a country has. (5—Constitution)
- 3. Means that nobody is above the law.  $(3 Rule \ of \ Law)$
- 4. Divides power among several branches of government. (4 Separation of Powers)
- 5. Makes sure even small and unpopular groups are treated fairly. (1 Rights of the Minority)
- 6. Makes sure no one part of government gets too much control. (4 Separation of Powers)
- 7. Explains the rights and responsibilities of citizens. (5 Constitution)
- 8. Happens when citizens use their votes to affect government. (2 Consent of the Governed)
- 9. Requires even the government to follow the law. (3 Rule of Law)
- 10. Limits the power of the majority. (1 Rights of the Minority)

