

# Constitution Project



For our first unit, you'll be creating your own Constitution. Drawing on your understanding of the Constitution of the United States of America and its purpose, goals, and context, develop your own Constitution which outlines the structure of your ideal government. You'll complete the assignment in steps over the course of several weeks. It will say on your weekly preparation guide what sections you should complete each week.

This assignment is a mixed assignment, meaning that you must pass it in order to pass the class, but it is also an opportunity to earn points towards the final 30% of your grade. This assignment is out of 30 points (meaning that it will be worth 3x the amount of an assignment that's out of 10, etc.).

## **Part 1: Goals**

Start by thinking about what your goals are for the government and what kinds of limitations you want to put on the government as a whole, as well as on specific groups or members of the government you outline. Write a few sentences about those goals and keep them with or on your outline.

## **Part 2: Brainstorm**

Formulate a plan for your government which addresses the goals you identified in Step 1. Brainstorm how your government might be able to operate. Write a short paragraph outline the overall structure of your government.

## **Part 3: Outline**

Using the ideas you generated in your brainstorming paragraph, outline a Constitution for your country which would describe the government you envisioned. For example, if you plan to

establish a president, you'll need a section on your outline for the president. Try to be as thorough as possible.

#### **Part 4: Detailed Outline**

Fill in the shell of your outline that you created in Part 4 with specific details and information you want to include in each segment. Remember to try and think through the practical side of what you're doing... it doesn't really make sense to say that a president will be chosen by the people and leave it at that. How will that process work? Will everyone vote? Who manages the voting? How much of a majority counts as winning? Can there be more than two candidates?

#### **Part 5: Write it!**

Finally, using your outline as a guide, write out your Constitution.

#### **Part 6: Revision**

Once you get some feedback, make any necessary changes to your Constitution. If the changes are just additions, you'll write them as Amendments (just like the U.S. Constitution works). If they're changes to what's there, you'll change it directly.

#### **Part 7: Bill of Rights**

Write the Bill of Rights which will accompany your Constitution. What rights will you grant the people of your society. If you want to use rights granted in the United States Bill of Rights, reference them correctly and go ahead and use them!

#### **Part 8: Finalize and Ratify**

Create a final, nicely presented version of your Constitution and Bill of Rights. You'll then present it to me (and possibly some peers or other teachers) and attempt to get it ratified. If you succeed, it will be signed by those agreeing and graded. If not, you'll need to revise it again.

#### **Part 9: Compare**

The final piece of the project is to compare your Constitution with that of the United States. In what ways are the two documents similar? How are they different? How did your Constitution address the goals of the U.S. Constitution in areas where the two are different? Write a 2-5 page paper discussing the two documents, making explicit reference to the way in which they both establish and protect a fair and practical method of governing.

# Rubric

- A. Your Constitution demonstrates thorough analysis of the responsibilities of government and outlines a clear and logical system for managing those roles.

1 2 3 4 5

- B. Your Constitution is well organized, making it easy to understand and use as an outline for governance.

1 2 3 4 5

- C. Your Constitution includes practical systems of governance which are clearly outlined and realistic.

1 2 3 4 5

- D. Your Constitution includes procedures or descriptions which address all the purposes described in Part 1 of the assignment, and the purposes you chose are reasonable and sufficient for forming a government.

1 2 3 4 5

- E. Your Constitution includes specific and accurate references to all ideas which are taken from outside sources, including the Constitution of the United States.

1 2 3 4 5

- F. Your Constitution comparison reflects a thorough understanding of the United States Constitution.

1 2 3 4 5

To pass this assignment, you must get at least a 3 on all elements listed above!

**Pass/Fail:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Points:**\_\_\_\_\_/30