

Students will use the webquest to research the three branches of the national and state governments. Students will be asked to compare and contrast the researched information into a power point presentation. In the final part of the webquest students will write a persuasive essay discussing whether federalism does work to form a more perfect union within the national and state governments and why. They will be asked to support their answer by citing specific examples from research.



### **A More Perfect Union?**

You will decide whether federalism should continue to be our nation's system of government or should it be changed? Back in 1787, the delegates of the Constitutional Convention worked long hours to establish a better form of government with a stronger national government. The delegates agreed to take away some of the states' powers in order to form a "more perfect union." The states were allowed to keep certain powers for themselves. The resulting form of government is known as federalism.

Federalism is a system of government in which the powers are divided between the national, which governs the whole nation, and the state governments, which governs the people of each state. In this webquest you will be researching, comparing and contrasting, and analyzing information about the three branches of state and national government. The three branches all have specific roles, functions and powers. Does this federal system work for the good of the American people? Does it create a "more perfect union" among states and the nation? Does the federal government have too much power? Should it be reevaluated? You be the judge.

The webquest will be completed in three parts:

**Part 1- the research component:** Students will be assigned a group to work with to complete three graphic organizers researching the similarities and differences of the three branches of the federal and state governments.

This part of the webquest is to be completed by Wednesday, October 31, 2007.

**Part 2- the creative component:** Each group will present a 12-slide power point presentation comparing and contrasting the information from the three branches of the federal and state governments. There will be 4 slides per branch of government illustrating aspects such as roles, functions, powers and terms. Each slide must include a minimum of 4 bullets of information. Images are optional but will greatly enhance your presentation.

This part of the webquest is to be completed by Friday, November 2, 2007.

**Part 3- the written component:** Students will individually write a persuasive essay that culminates their findings on federal and state governments. They must decide whether federalism works in our U.S. government or if it doesn't work to create a "more perfect union". Students must argue specifically why they believe it works or what they would do to change how powers are distributed and explain why. Students must support their arguments fully using information from their research and persuade the audience about their chosen stance on this system of government.

## Grading

Students will earn 4 separate grades for the webquest project.

**Part 1 and Part 2** will be graded as a group activity. See attached rubric for grading the Power Point presentation.

**Part 3** will be graded individually based on the 6 Traits Writing rubric (see attached). Essays must follow the basic 7-paragraph structure, which includes a title page and list of resources used to support your position. Use the Times New Roman size 12 font in your essay. Your essay should also be double-spaced.

The Essay is due on Monday, November 5, 2007

As the essay is to be completed as an individual activity, you may begin work on the essay at any time during the webquest project. However, you should not divert time from your group activity on the webquest to work individually on your essay. You may use any information acquired as a group through research for Part 1 and Part 2 in the essay. However, each student is required to write their own essay apart from the rest of the group members.

**Final Exam** – students will be tested on the information discovered through their research, Power Point presentations, and Chapter 4 worksheets.

Power Point presentations will be shown in class 11/5 through 11/7.

The test will be given on Thursday, November 8, 2007.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E
Thomas Bo Jullian Whitney Lance	Nicky LV Brandon Allie Logan	Davin Rilee Jackson KC Jesse	Trent Dillon Shelby Drew Dan	Manuela Amy Doug Jacob James

Persuasive Essay	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Purpose: Persuasive Arguments	Arguments about each area supports or distorts federalism, is not clear, accurate or persuasive.	Argument about each area supports or distorts federalism, is somewhat clear, accurate, and persuasive.	Argument about each area supports or distorts federalism, is mostly clear, accurate and persuasive.	Arguments about each question supports or distort federalism, are very clear, accurate, and persuasive.	
Completion	Students present less than 3 concrete, logical and valid arguments to persuade audience to support or alter federalism.	Students present 3 concrete logical and valid arguments to persuade audience to support or alter federalism.	Students present at least 4 concrete, logical and valid arguments to persuade audience to support or alter federalism.	Students present more than 4 concrete, logical, and valid arguments to persuade audience to support or alter federalism.	
Evidence of Accurate Research & Citations	Displays little research. Citations are not accurate or effective.	Displays minimal research. Citations are somewhat accurate and effective.	Displays adequate research. Citations are mostly accurate and effective.	Displays extensive research. Citations are very accurate and effective.	
Essay Structure	There is no essay structure, clarity, or organization.	Introduction, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion are somewhat addressed and are somewhat clear, defined and organized.	Introduction, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion are adequately addressed and are mostly clear defined and organized.	Introduction, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion are addressed thoroughly and are very clearly defined and organized.	
Conventions and Grammar	Spelling, grammar and punctuation errors occur often and makes essay difficult to understand.	Spelling, grammar and punctuation errors occur frequently. Somewhat easy to read and understand.	Spelling, grammar and punctuation error occur occasionally. Relatively easy to read and understand.	Free of spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. Easy to read and understand.	

Power Point Presentation	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Evaluation of Content	Presentation does not display an understanding of the researched information on the three branches of each government.	Presentation displays some understanding of the researched information on the three branches of each government.	Presentation displays a general understanding of the researched information on the three branches of each government.	Presentation displays a clear understanding of the researched information on the three branches of each government.	
Compare & Contrast of Information	Compares and contrasts little of the researched information accurately and effectively.	Compares and contrasts some of the researched information accurately and effectively.	Compares and contrasts most of the researched information accurately and effectively.	Compares and contrasts all of the researched information accurately and effectively.	
Cooperative Group and Individual Contribution	Minimal or no participation in gathering and analyzing research. No contribution to power point presentation or essay and didn't work well with group.	Somewhat participated in gathering and analyzing research. Contributed little to power point presentation and essay, and worked little with group.	Mostly participated in gathering and analyzing research, contributed adequately to power point presentation and essay, and worked with group.	Fully participated in gathering and analyzing research, contributed to power point presentation and essay, and worked well with group.	
Amount of information	Slides cover little of the given directions with minimal accuracy.	Slides cover some of the given directions with accuracy.	Slides cover most of the given directions with complete accuracy.	Slides cover all of the given directions with complete accuracy.	
Use of Technology and Organization	Layout choice, graphics and design is poor, ineffective and disorganized.	Layout choice, graphics, and design is somewhat effective and organized.	Layout choice, graphics, and design is generally effective and organized.	Layout choice, graphics, and design is outstanding and well organized.	