

ATTAINMENT'S



AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY



STUDENT WORKBOOK

“**AMERICAN** di-mok-ruh-see
uh-mer-i-kuhn **DEMOCRACY**”

Molly Farry-Thorn, Mark Seidenberg, Nancy Zellmer, & Jim Zellmer

Edited by Autumn Garza

Graphic Design by Erin Radermacher

Video produced by Nancy Zellmer

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LETTER SOUNDS

/i/

SPELLING PATTERNS

i_e, i, y, igh for /i/
-tion and -sion suffixes

Re
ad



Checks and balances

cheks | and | BAL-uhn-siz

The separation of powers between the different branches of government

- **Checks and balances** limit each branch of government.
- The presidential veto is a **check and balance** on Congress.
- Congress controls the budget to **check and balance** the president.



sedso.io/g/checks_and_balances/e/

executive branch, judicial branch, legislative branch



Delegate

DEH-luh-git

A person authorized to represent people at the Constitutional Convention

- A **delegate** represents others.
- Ben Franklin was a Constitutional Convention **delegate**.
- The **delegates** debated ideas.



sedso.io/g/delegate/e/

delegated, delegates, delegation, represent, representative, Constitutional Convention



Executive branch

ig-ZEK-yuh-tiv | branch

The branch of the government that enforces the law

- The president leads the **executive branch**.
- Executive agency employees serve the **executive branch**.
- The vice president is in the **executive branch**.



sedso.io/g/executive_branch/e/

Cabinet, executive agency, executive office, federal, governor, local, mayor, president, vice president



Federalism

FEH-der-uh-lih-zuhm

The form of government used in the U.S. that separates powers between the national government and state governments

- **Federalism** separates powers.
- **Federalism** gives power to states.
- **Federalism** makes sure the federal government isn't too powerful.



sedso.io/g/federalism/e/

federal, federation, confederation, government, national, state



Judicial branch

joo-DIH-shul | branch

The branch of the government that interprets the law

- The state supreme court leads the **judicial branch**.
- The state **judicial branch** rules on state law.
- County courts are part of the state **judicial branch**.



sedso.io/g/judicial_branch/e/

court, judge, judicial review, jurisdiction, law, Supreme Court



Legislative branch

LEH-ji-sley-tiv | branch

The branch of the government that writes the law

- Congress is the **legislative branch**.
- The **legislative branch** writes and passes bills.
- The **legislative branch** can tax and spend.



sedso.io/g/legislative_branch/e/

Congress, legislator, legislature, House of Representatives, law, Senate





Popular sovereignty

PAH-pyuh-ler | SAH-vruhn-tee

A founding idea of the U.S., saying that the government gets its power from the people

- **Popular sovereignty** gives power to the people.
- **Popular sovereignty** makes leaders public servants.
- We must act for **popular sovereignty** to have impact.



sedso.io/g/popular_sovereignty/e/

government, people, power



Preamble

PREE-am-buhl

The first section of the Constitution

- The **preamble** sets goals.
- A **preamble** goal is to establish justice.
- The **preamble** recognizes popular rights.



sedso.io/g/preamble/e/

Constitution, introduction, preface



Ratify

RA-tuh-fahy

To sign a government document, making it official

- The vote to **ratify** the amendment failed.
- The first Congress **ratified** the Constitution.
- The U.S. and E.U. **ratify** trade treaties.



sedso.io/g/ratify/e/

ratifies, ratified, ratification, amendment, sign, Articles of Confederation, bill, law, proposal



Rule of law

rool | uhv | lah

The idea that all people, including leaders, must follow the law

- The **rule of law** is a political ideal.
- The President must follow the **rule of law**.
- Congress follows **the rule of law**.



sedso.io/g/rule_of_law/e/

Constitution, democracy, government, everyone, law, protect

Related Words

Example Sentences



Amendment • uh-MEND-ment

A change or correction to a constitution



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American Revolution •

uh-MER-i-kan | reh-vuh-LOO-shuhn

The war that gave the U.S. colonies independence from the British



sedso.io/g/american_revolution/e/

Articles of Confederation •

AHR-ti-kuhl | uhv | kuhn-feh-der-EY-shuhn

The first constitution of the U.S., then the colonies



sedso.io/g/articles_of_confederation/e/

Compromise • KAHM-pruh-mahyz

When two sides each agree to something by giving something up



sedso.io/g/compromise/e/

Constitution • kahn-stuh-TOO-shuhn

A document that sets the rules for how the government works



sedso.io/g/constitution/e/

Constitutional Convention •

kahn-stuh-TOO-shuh-nl | kuhn-VEN-shuhn

A meeting held in 1787 to create the U.S. Constitution



sedso.io/g/constitutional_convention/e/

Elect • ih-LEKT

To choose someone for a government office by voting



sedso.io/g/elect/e/

Law • lah

A rule set by the government that must be followed



sedso.io/g/law/e/

President • PREH-zih-duhnt

The elected leader of the country



sedso.io/g/president/e/

Republic • rih-PUH-blik

A type of government with elected representatives



sedso.io/g/republic/e/



Fill in the blanks using the words provided to complete the sentences below.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK ★

checks and balances
legislative branch
delegate

Popular sovereignty
executive branch
preamble
federalism

ratify
judicial branch
rule of law

1. The _____ is the branch of the United States government responsible for making laws.
2. The President is part of the _____.
3. The Constitution divides power between the federal and state governments in a system called _____.
4. _____ is the principle that the government gets its power from the people.
5. The _____ is a statement at the beginning of the Constitution that explains its purpose and goals.
6. Before a new amendment becomes part of the Constitution, at least two-thirds of the states must _____ it.
7. The _____ interprets the laws and ensures they are fair and constitutional.
8. A system of _____ prevents any one branch of government from becoming too powerful.
9. A _____ is a person chosen to represent others and make decisions on their behalf.
10. The _____ is a principle that means everyone must follow the law, including the leaders.



American Revolution**Articles of
Confederation****Elect****Constitutional
Convention****Compromise****Constitution****Laws****President****Republic****Delegates**

The Articles of Confederation were created during the American Revolution. This was a plan that gave most of the power to individual states. But, over time, people realized that there were some problems with this plan. There was a need for the states to work together and a way to make sure that everyone followed the same laws.

So, a special meeting called a convention was held. People from different states came together to discuss and propose changes. These people were called delegates. The delegates had to compromise, which meant they had to agree on some things even if they did not all have the same ideas. This was an important part of the process.

At the Constitutional Convention, the delegates decided to create a new plan for the country called the Constitution. The Constitution was like a rulebook for the country. It explained how the government should work, what the laws would be, and who would be in charge. The delegates agreed that the country would elect people, like the president, to make decisions for them.

The Constitution established a republic, which means that the people elect representatives to make decisions for them. This way, everyone has a say in how the country is run, even if they cannot all be there to make decisions.



Amendment
Checks and balances
Executive branch

Federalism
Judicial branch
Legislative branch
Popular sovereignty

Preamble
Ratify
Rule of law

The Constitution begins with a special introduction called the preamble. It is like the opening lines of a story, explaining why the Constitution was created. One important reason was to establish a rule of law—a promise that everyone, even the leaders, must follow the same rules. The Constitution also established popular sovereignty. That is just a fancy way of saying that the power comes from the people. We get to decide who leads us, what rules we follow, and how our country works. The Constitution also includes a special idea called federalism. This means that some things are decided by the whole country, while others are left to the states to decide.

One important thing to know is that the Constitution can be changed over time through an amendment. An amendment is like an addition or update to the rules. Before an amendment can be added to the Constitution, the states must ratify it. This means that the states have to say that they agree that adding the amendment is a good idea.

Our government is split into three main parts, or branches. The legislative branch is the group of people who make the laws that everyone has to follow. The executive branch is led by the president and makes sure the laws are carried out. The judicial branch is made up of the judges who make sure the laws are fair. Because we do not want one group to have too much control, there are checks and balances included in the Constitution. Checks and balances mean that each branch watches over the others to make sure everything is fair.

★ LETTER SOUNDS ACTIVITY

Write the following words in the correct row based on how the vowel sound is spelled.

line	kind	by	high
bind	like	find	supply
try	right	time	indict
vice	light	my	might

i_e

i

y

igh

Can you think of any other words that use this vowel sound?



Write the following words in the correct column based on how the ending is spelled.

SPELLING ACTIVITY ★

conviction
succession
regulation
production

donation
exemption
conclusion
expression

commission
decision
discussion
competition

-tion

-sion

Can you think of any other words that end with *-tion*?

Can you think of any other words that end with *-sion*?



Read the passage. Then, circle at least 8 words that have the same vowel sound as the word “my.” Underline the 4 words in the passage that end in *-tion* or *-sion*.

In the high stakes of election time, the leader stood in front of the crowd under bright lights. She said, “I’ll try to help us stick together, make good choices, and find the right way forward.”

Her opponent was in trouble and might face a conviction. “They might try to make me look bad,” he said, “but I’ll fight for what’s right.”

The people, tired of empty promises, waited in line to vote. They hoped their decision this time would bring change. Like always, the future felt big, and the competition was strong.

Write at least 8 words from the passage that have the same vowel sound as the word “my.”

Write the words from the passage that end with *-tion* or *-sion*.

