

Handout D: Separation of Powers Video Viewing Guide

Before You Watch:

1. Answers may include: three branches of government, state government, national government, checks and balances, veto, electoral college, appointments, advice and consent, Senate, House, President, Supreme Court, Vice President, President of the Senate, override, constitutional, judicial review
2. Answers may include: compromise, budget, political parties, majority, minority, hearings, special interest groups, campaigns

While You Watch:

1. Legislative, executive, judicial
2. Tyranny
3. The legislative branch
4. The executive branch
5. The judicial branch
6. Itself
7. The legislature

After You Watch:

1. Separation of powers means that the three branches of government have separate powers. The legislature makes the laws, the executive carries out the laws, and the judiciary interprets the laws. Each branch has checks on the other to ensure that one branch does not become too powerful.
2. Accept reasoned answers.
3. The Founders did not want the government to become so powerful that it infringed upon the rights of the people.
4. Checks and balances between the three branches of government keep ambitious leaders in check.
5. The Founders understood that people tend to seek power. Separation of powers and checks and balances were put into place to keep one branch, person, or group from gaining too much power.