

## *Federalist No. 51*

In explaining how the Constitution promotes republican (or representative) government and why republican government was an important principle to the Founders, students may discuss many examples, including:

- The many parts of a republican government will check the powers of the other parts.
- Each part should have a will of its own, and an “interest” in exercising its will, but it should have little influence in appointing members of other branches or parts of government. (Madison stated that the responsibilities of the office must be connected to the interests of the office holders so that they will be disposed to exercise their wills so as to make the system of checks and balances work in practice and not just in theory.)
- Government must control the governed and control itself.
- The powers should be distributed in a way that checks the interests of other branches or departments, and these powers should not infringe upon the rights of the public.
- In a republican government, the legislative branch will hold the most power, but its power will be checked by the two different houses being elected by different methods and holding different powers.
- In a compound, or federal, republic, not only will the branches check each other, but the states will check the national government to protect citizens’ rights and maintain justice.
- The power of the government is also checked by the fact that there are many different people in the country with different opinions.
- The authority or power retained by the government will come from the people.
- Rights, including religious rights, must be secured for a free government to be effective.
- The end of government and civil society is justice.