

Big Idea Card

Big Ideas of Lesson 10, Unit 2

- The Constitution rests on the fundamental principles of inalienable rights/social compact; popular sovereignty; rule of law; limited government; and equality.
- The six goals in the Preamble hold us together as a nation, but often come into conflict when applied to a particular situation. As a nation, people must understand, reconcile, and balance conflicting goals such as liberty for us and future generations, security, justice, and the general welfare (common good).
- The difficult decisions we make are not between good and evil. Rather, our challenge is to determine the relationship between worthy but conflicting ideals through political means.
- Our constitutional system is intended to manage conflict through political means instead of violence. The constitutional mechanisms (e.g., separation of powers, federalism) are designed to manage conflict within the political system.
- Threats to our system of government occur when the Constitution seems to be unable to successfully manage conflict and people lose faith in the constitutional system.
- Gerrymandering is the drawing of political boundaries to give one party's candidates a practically insurmountable advantage in legislative and congressional elections. People disagree on whether gerrymandering is a threat to our system of government in the United States.