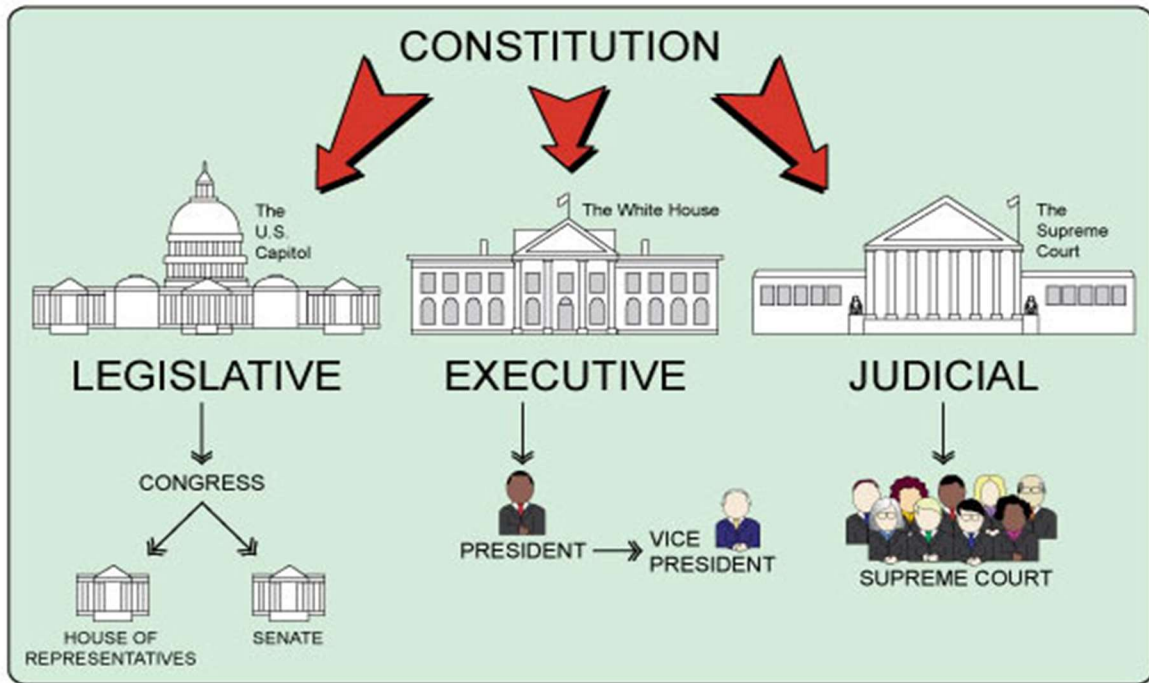


Student Handout 1: Digging into the Constitution

Part I: The Structure of the Constitution

Directions: You have already learned about the first part of the Constitution – the Preamble. Below is a graphic illustration of the next three parts of the Constitution. Use a copy of the U.S. Constitution to help you answer the questions below.



1. Explain how the Constitution is organized.

- Article I is the _____ branch.
- Article II is the _____ branch.
- Article III is the _____ branch.
- How many Articles are there in the Constitution? _____
- What comes after the Articles? _____

2. Reflecting on the structure of the Constitution:

- Why do you think the Framers chose this branch for Article I?

b. Which branch of government is the most powerful? Why do think so?

Part II: Small Team Investigation

Directions: You have been assigned the _____ branch of government to investigate. Use the questions below to guide your team’s exploration of your assigned branch of government.

1. What are the three most important powers your branch has?

2. How does your branch limit the power of other branches?

3. What position/office has the most power in your branch?

4. What are the requirements to become a member of your branch?

5. Is there a limit on how long someone can serve in your branch?

Part III: Understanding the Constitution

Question	Legislative	Executive	Judicial
What are the most important powers that this branch has?			
How does this branch limit the power of other branches?			
What position(s) or office(s) has the most power in this branch?			
What are the requirements to become a member of this branch? Why might this be?			
Is there a limit on how long someone can serve in this branch? Why might this be?			