

Name _____

Date Due _____

Thematic Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

Theme: Separation of Powers

The Constitution was formed in such a way as to prevent power from being held in the hands of the few. One of the ways that the framers of the Constitution achieved this was through a system of checks and balances.

Task:

- Describe the three branches of government and the functions of each branch
- Explain how each branch of government checks the other branches to maintain a balance of power

Suggestions:

Some suggestions you might wish to consider include: impeachment, veto, override, judicial review, presidential appointments, ratifying treaties, approving presidential appointments, executive orders

You are not limited to these suggestions.

Essay Outline...Suggestions

Introduction:

- Things to think about
 - What is the Constitution?
 - Why was it created?
 - What did we have before the Constitution?
 - What is the basic structure of the Constitution? *Parts of the government (branches), levels of government (federalism)

Body Paragraphs:

- Describe the three branches of government and the functions of each branch
 - Legislative Branch: Things to think about
 - What do they do?
 - Who is part of this branch?
 - How is representation determined?
 - How were they originally elected? Is it different now?
 - What are the terms of office?
 - Executive Branch: Things to think about
 - What do they do?
 - Who is part of this branch?
 - How are they elected?
 - What are the terms of office?
 - Judicial Branch: Things to think about
 - What do they do?
 - Who is part of this branch?
 - How are they selected?
 - What are the terms of office?
- Explain how each branch of government check the other branches to maintain a balance of power
 - Things to think about: Choose a scenario which can explain the functions of checks and balances
 - Bill to a law process
 - Impeachment process
 - Appointment of judges process
 - Ratification of treaties process

Conclusion:

- Things to think about
 - Why did the founding fathers choose a system with checks and balances?
 - Do you believe that the system of checks and balances is effective? Why or why not?