

Apply classroom experience and notes to our Government Structure

1. In your group work was Problem 1: CURRENCY - Different currencies for each state, resulting in losses... Regardless of how your group solved this, how did the real U.S. government solve this?
2. A. In Problem 2 of your group work, states could erect tariffs to protect local farmers and businesses from out-of-state competition; but this led to retaliatory tariffs as well as citizens backing away from interstate trade. What did the new U.S. government do about this?

B. Keeping in mind your answer in A, what, then, should local producers do if they are constantly undercut by lower priced out-of-state goods?

C. How does this anti-protectionist philosophy fit with today's world and the W.T.O.?
3. Using your understanding from the trade simulation you did, the constitution work that you did, and the notes you just took, dissect the Preamble to the Constitution:

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union,

It should be easy to say what was "less perfect" about the way our union had been. So, briefly explain.

establish justice, insure domestic tranquility,

What had happened that shows injustice and less tranquility during the A. of C. years?

provide for the common defense,

Meaning...

promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity,

What are the "blessings" the revolutionaries had wanted for themselves and for their kids as a result of separating from Britain?

do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Oh, that's nice....

4. Though our founding fathers set up a “bicameral” legislature for many reasons, explain how it solves the big-state-small-state quandary?

5. Looking at the first two Congressional powers in your notes, why is it wrong for the public to rail at our President for taxes being too high?

E.C. Yet, if you know how the President is involved in legislation, why would he still share responsibility for something like taxes being too high?

6. A. Explain what “impeachment” is:

B. Most of our public (even you parents) misuse this term. How?

7. Hauling before a Congressional investigative committee scammers like bank executives who seem to lose track of millions of its customers’ dollars seems worthy to most Americans. Publicly questioning insurance executives about too many denied claims pleases the public. However, years ago, a Congressional investigative committee forced many big-name professional baseball players to come before their panel and answer questions about the use of steroids in Professional Baseball. Many people scoffed that this was silly; that Congress must have better things to do. However, why would others actually consider this Congress’ business? (How was the public being hurt by this issue?)

8. The President! -- Questions 4 - 7 have been dealing with "The Legislative Branch." According to our Constitution, is our President a part of the Legislative Branch?
9. Can The President initially tell our Congress that he will not enact the bill that they passed in both houses?
10. How can The President possibly know enough to implement legislation in ALL sectors of our society?! --No way! I don't care if the President is Bush, Clinton or Obama; nobody is that well versed in transportation, education, economics, foreign affairs, the military,no way. But, the President is simply the head of the "Executive Branch." Who are the other other top members of the **Executive Branch** that help the President in all these different societal areas?
11. If you understand how laws are proposed and passed in this country, then think about what it is a candidate for President is really saying when he or she is promising to change things like taxes, healthcare, etc. When citizens listen to such rhetoric, the often don't remember that he can't guarantee such changes will actually occur. Why?
12. A. We can all agree that no country should just let its Generals be in total control of all its armed forces, but if a President is a civilian with no military experience, then how can we trust that he knows how to run a military?
- B. Your notes say that once war is declared, the President is in complete control of the war effort. He decides where to fight, how many troops to send, everything. At times in our history, some Americans have found this annoying or weird, But, look at the first power for the Executive Branch that you wrote in your notes. Apply that information to what happens when we go to war, and then it makes sense. Explain:
(Hint: A war declaration is simply just another piece of legislation passed by Congress. So, ...)
13. Why did our Founding Father's give most Foreign Affairs powers to the Executive Branch; basically to ONE person? Why not have our Congressional Representatives be involved in negotiating treaties that may affect our lives so much?
(Hint: The answer is pretty simple when you think about tough, intricate negotiations with a representative from another country and how many people are in Congress. Imaging what that would look like...)