

1
government



a system people use to exercise authority, distribute power, and regulate conduct of people

Example: Cities, states, and countries all have a government.

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2
federal government



the government of our country

Example: Our federal government is centered in Washington, D.C.

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3
Constitution



the written document that created the system of government for our country

Example: Our Constitution describes the power and organization of our government.

4
Preamble



the introduction to our Constitution

Example: Our Constitution begins with a Preamble which explains the purposes of our federal government.

1
Founders

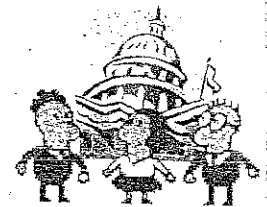


the people who helped establish our country

Example: The Founders of our country helped create our first government.

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2
popular sovereignty

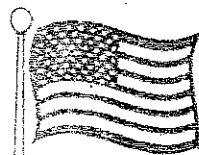


the power and authority of the government comes from the people

Example: Popular sovereignty is an important core democratic value.

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3
core democratic values



things people believe in that bring people together as Americans

Example: Freedom and fairness are examples of core democratic values.

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4
limited government

the government can only do what the people have given it the power to do

Example: Limited government means the government can't just do whatever it wants.

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1

levels of government

federal, state, and local governments



Example: In our country we have three levels of government.

2

shared powers

powers granted to both the federal and state governments



Example: The power to collect taxes is a shared power.

3

reserved powers

powers not given to the federal government



Example: The power to create schools is an example of a reserved power.

4

delegated powers

powers people give to the federal government by the Constitution



Example: The power to print money is a delegated power.

5
republic

a government not led by a hereditary rule (leaders based on birth), but where people hold the power of government and choose leaders to make decisions

Example: Our government is a republic.

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6
representative
government

a form of government where people choose representatives to make decisions for them

Example: Our U.S. government is a representative democracy.

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7
the common
good

people working together for the benefit of everybody

Example: When you help clean up in the classroom you are doing something for the common good.

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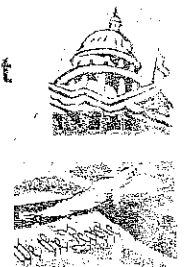


8
constitutional government

a government based on a Constitution describes powers of government

Example: Many governments have a constitution, but not all limit the power of the government.

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9
laws

statements that define how citizens should behave

Example: Communities, states and countries have laws.

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10
rule of law

everyone, including the people who run the government, must obey the laws

Example: By following the rule of law, we can make sure that nobody is above the law.

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