



Constitutional Principles

A principle is a value that guides behavior or serves as the foundation for a belief system or line of reasoning. The United States Constitution rests on seven principles. Read each definition and identify the Constitutional Principle.

1. A government's power comes from the people, and the people have the right to change or replace their government.

This is the principle of _____

2. The government only has the powers that are explicitly given to it in the Constitution. Everyone, without exception, is subject to the law.

This is the principle of _____

3. The Constitution divides the government into three branches. The legislative branch makes the laws, the executive branch enforces the laws, and the judicial branch explains and interprets the laws.

This is the principle of _____

4. Each branch of government has powers that check or limit what the other two can do.

This is the principle of _____

5. Power is divided between the federal government and the state governments. Some powers are shared between them.

This is the principle of _____

6. Rather than directly taking part in government, citizens elect representatives to act on their behalf. Those in office vote according to their own judgement, but they must listen to and consider the opinions of the citizens they represent.

This is the principle of _____

7. Each individual citizen has rights which the Constitution must protect (i.e., freedom of speech, freedom of religion, etc.).

This is the principle of _____