

Grayson Donohoe - Checks and Balances Lesson Plan

Harmony Middle School - 8th Grade Civics and Economics

Standard: CE.6 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the national level by

- b) explaining the principle of separation of powers and the operation of checks and balances;

TSWBAT:

1. Identify what kinds of government actions require separation of powers
2. Define key vocabulary related to checks and balances
3. Give an example of a check on each branch of government
4. Discuss the importance of checks and balances

Key Vocabulary:

- Abuse
- Checks and balances
- Unconstitutional
- Separation of powers
- Override
- Impeach
- Implied powers
- pardon/reprieve
- Supreme
- enumerated

Materials Needed:

Promethean board, student workbook, copies of assessment, computer

Introduction to Lesson:

Recall from previous units - What happens in order for Congress to pass a law? (students answer: President signs the bill). What happens when the President wants to nominate a new judge to the Supreme Court? (students answer: the Senate has to confirm). But, what happens when the president wants to pardon someone? (students answer: the president pardons them). So why does the government have to work together in order to make big, impactful decisions? (student answer I'm looking for: because the government can't concentrate power to one branch).

Instructional Activities:

1. Introduction
2. Lesson presentation

- a. Define checks and balances
 - b. Why did the founders set the government up this way?
 - i. What does it prevent? Importance?
 - c. Fill in the blank notes on page 175
 - d. What powers are checks and balances (reading page 173)
3. Partner practice with examples
 4. Assessment

Accommodations: n/a

Closure: Last slide - refer back to conclusion on page 176 and discuss the importance of checks and balances.

Assessment:  Checks and Balances Practice Formative

Resources: student workbooks, answer keys

Google Slide Presentation:  Checks and Balances Lesson