

The US v. Arizona Constitutions

There are essential differences between the United States and Arizona Constitutions. The main theoretical difference is that the US Constitution focuses on liberty, making it easier to pass laws if a consensus exists for those laws. Arizona's Constitution instead focuses on direct control by the people, sometimes called direct democracy; the people themselves, not the Arizona Constitution's structures, are the primary check on the state government. Answer the questions in the worksheet below to help identify some of these differences. After each difference is found, explain why Arizona's version advances the theme of direct democracy.

1: Location of the Legislative Power

A: Where does the US Constitution place the federal legislative power? (Article I)

B: Where does the Arizona Constitution place the state legislative? (Article IV)

2: Scope of the Legislative Power:

A: What power, if any, does the US Constitution give the federal government over education (Article I)?

B: What power, if any, does the Arizona Constitution give over education (Article IV.1, Article XI)?

3: Executive Branch: Appointment

A: How are cabinet offices ("heads of departments") filled in the US Constitution (Article II)?

B: How are these offices filled in Arizona (Article V)?

4: Executive Branch: Removal

A: What tools does the US Constitution create to remove a corrupt president from office? (Article I)

B: What tools does the US Constitution create to remove a corrupt governor from office? (Article VIII)

5: Amendments

A: How is the U.S. Constitution amended? (Art V)

B: How is the Arizona Constitution amended? (Art XXI)