

## .Political Systems

For this project you will be working with one or two partners to aid in completing some unique project that cohesively brings together the functioning of our three branches of government. There are several portions to this project as you will need to discover the inner-workings of and the relationships between the Judicial, Executive, and Legislative branches. So, your research is twofold: understand how 1) each branch functions on its own and 2) how each branch checks, balances, and works with the other branches. Keep a log of websites you use so that you can cite them as you use them. This project has an immense amount of freedom as you'll be developing your own essential question based around the functionality of and between the three branches of the US government.

**Essential Task:** Evaluate the extent to which one branch of government impacts the other two branches of government.

**Your Essential Question formation:** Focus on one, specific action/decision/event/individual from one of the branches of government and figure out how that action/decision/event/individual impacts the other two branches of government.

**What makes a question essential? It is a question that...**

- makes you think deeply and creates lively discussion-- *typically* not a who, what, or when question
- can be argued or debated -- there is no correct answer, but it requires considerable research in order to draw a conclusion
- forces you to: provide evidence and supporting evidence, consider alternatives, and justify thoughts
- may be frustrating to find answers to because the answer isn't easy to find-- it should make your brain hurt!!!
- is **clear, focused, concise, complex, and arguable**
- you can't GOOGLE and find the answer in one or two clicks!

**Notes about forming an essential question:**

- It's OK that it might take you a bit of time to formulate one.
- Start a list of potential ideas and think about how those ideas might interact with politics (specifically, the branches of government)
- If you're having a hard time thinking of topics for your project, head to [major news outlets](#) and see what's happening in America (and the World) to get some ideas.
- Don't be afraid to modify your essential question as you complete more research. There's a good chance that you'll end up having more questions as you complete more research.
- Lastly, you **SHOULDN'T** have an answer when you form a question... it's OK to have some thoughts on the topic... but you should aim to seek out an answer.
- **Gathering → Processing → Evaluating/Applying**

**Sample Essential Questions:**

- How has the approval of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh impacted the three branches of US government at the state and federal level(s)?
- How has the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg impacted abortion laws that are passed by state governments?
- How has Joe Biden's presidency impacted the three branches of government since his election?
- How have laws, mandates, and regulations for COVID-19 impacted the three branches of government?

**YOUR Essential Question(s):**

## PHASE 0: Calendar, Deadlines, and In-Unit Mini Lessons

### CALENDAR + DEADLINES

- Jan 3. [How to Ask Questions](#) + Constitutional Scavenger Hunt + Legislative Branch overview
- Jan 4. Constitution Scavenger Hunt + Legislative Branch overview contd.
- Jan 5. **RESEARCH TOPIC DUE (beginning of class)** + Constitutional Scavenger Hunt + Executive Branch overview
- Jan 6. **CONSTITUTION SCAVENGER HUNT DUE (beginning of class)** + Judicial Branch + Essential Question formation
- Jan 7. **ESSENTIAL QUESTION DUE (end of class)**
- [Gerrymandering](#)
    - [Gerrymandering Game](#)
  - Essential Question review
- Jan 10. Identify research questions + Research
- Jan 11. Research
- Jan 12. Research + Create
- Jan 13. Create
- Jan 14. Create → LAST WORK DAY

### IN-UNIT MINI LESSONS

#### Legislative Branch

- [Introduction](#)
- Reading Resource: [The Senate and the House of Representatives](#)
  - [Questions](#)
- Additional Info
  - [The Many Roles of a Congressman](#)
  - [Congressional Leadership](#)

#### Executive Branch

- [Introduction](#)
- Reading Resource: [Executive Branch](#)
  - [Questions](#)
- Additional Info
  - [Expressed vs. Implied Powers](#)
  - [Limits on Presidential Power](#)

#### Judicial Branch

- [Introduction](#)
- Reading Resource: [4 Types of Laws](#)
  - [Questions](#)
- Additional Info
  - [Civil Liberties and the Constitution](#)

Essential Question:

**Time:** This project will run through the end of the year.

- **Due Date:** Friday, January 14

Scoring Rubric	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Advanced
<b>Content Understanding</b> (assessed throughout and final product)	With guidance, shows little understanding of roles and functioning of:  a) Legislative Branch  b) Judicial Branch  c) Executive Branch	Shows understanding of roles and functioning of the:  a) Legislative Branch  b) Judicial Branch  c) Executive Branch	<b>and</b> shows breadth/depth of roles and functioning of the 3 branches of government through their interactions with one another.  Is able to discuss key people, positions, and actions of <i>each</i> branch  Discusses how each branch impacts our lives	<b>and</b> provides ample discussion - <i>based on evidence</i> - of  a) which branch of government is the most powerful  b) how the American people are impacted by the branches' relationships with one another  c) has ample content based around essential question to support understanding
<b>Develop Claims using Evidence to Support Reasoning</b> (conferring and final product)	Inaccurate attempt made to respond to prompt through a historical thinking skill	Accurate application of content knowledge based around essential question to support understanding	<b>and</b> evaluates how multiple events, different groups, and individuals contributed to your response to the prompt	<b>and</b> uses a variety of sources to provide relevant evidence to explain the reasons functionality of and between the US' branches of government  analyzes the intended and unintended causes and/or effects of the time period.
<b>Clarity / Communication</b> (final product: how well do you communicate your understanding))	Claim is weak or nonexistent	Develops defensible claim to provide focus in the final product that is based upon multiple sources of information	<b>and</b> clearly supports the claim with discussion and evidence from <i>multiple perspectives</i>	<b>and</b> uses sound reasoning/analysis to explain the extent to which evidence supports the claim.
<b>Formal Citations (APA or MLA)</b>	No formal citations - <u>Auto-Fail</u>			