



ELEMENTARY HEARING QUESTIONS INDIANA REGION/STATE LEVEL

Unit One: What Are The Basic Ideas About Government Did the Founders Have?

1. According to the Founders, what are the basic purposes of government?
 - Why did the Framers think a constitution was necessary to achieve these purposes?
 - Which did the Founders think was more important, the common good or individual rights?
 - Does our government still serve the purposes that the Framers intended?
 - Why did the Founders write the Declaration of Independence?

Unit Two: How Did The Framers Write Our Constitution?

1. What major conflicts required the Framers at the Philadelphia Convention to make compromises?
 - Why was it so difficult for the Framers to reach agreement about how to resolve their conflicts?
 - How did the compromise of later adding a Bill of Rights affect our Constitution?
 - Do you agree with the Framers decision to keep the proceedings of the Philadelphia Convention secret? Why or why not?
 - Was the group that assembled at the Philadelphia Convention a fair representation of the people? Why or why not?

Unit Three: How Does The Constitution Organize Our Government?

1. How did the Framers use separation of powers and checks and balances to limit the powers of government?
 - Give examples of checks and balances at work today. Give examples of the use of federalism to limit power.
 - Do you think the Congress should have the power to pass a bill over the president's veto? Why or why not?
 - Do you think the Supreme Court should have the power to declare a law passed by Congress unconstitutional? Why or why not?



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Unit Four: How Does The Constitution Protect Our Basic Rights?

1. What is freedom of expression, and why is it important to our democracy?
 - How does the Constitution protect freedom of expression?
 - Are there times when freedom of expression should be limited? Why or why not? Give examples.
 - How is freedom of religion protected in the Constitution?
 - When is it acceptable for government to limit the practice of people's religious beliefs?
 - How has the idea of "equal protection of the laws" been used to protect people's rights? Give examples.

Unit Five: What Are The Responsibilities Of Citizens?

1. What responsibilities go along with the rights of citizens?
 - Do you think every citizen should be required to participate in his/her government? How?
 - How does a responsible citizen promote the common good?
 - Why do so many young people not fulfill their responsibility to vote?
 - As citizens of a democracy, do we have responsibilities to other nations of the world?