

THE CONSTITUTION AS A JOB DESCRIPTION

LEVEL:

Middle School

TIMEFRAME:

Approximately 45 minutes

OBJECTIVES:

Students will analyze the U.S. Constitution to determine the role of the President

STANDARDS:

- Principles of Democracy
 - Revolution and the New Nation
 - Foundations of the Political System
 - Reading Informational Texts
 - Reading and Writing Literacy in History/Social Studies
 - Speaking and Listening
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WARM UP ACTIVITY:

1. Provide students copies of Article 1 and Article 2 of the Constitution and ask them to mark the places where the document refers to the responsibilities of the President.

PROCEDURE:

1. Watch the 4-minute video on the *Acts of Congress* produced by C-SPAN's *American History TV* series.
 - a. Stream the video on YouTube
https://youtu.be/0aeF_uZG9mA
 - b. For more information on the *Acts of Congress*, [read this article](#). To explore the *Acts of Congress*, [click here](#).
2. Distribute the handout *George Washington's Notes* (included in the ZIP file download) and ask students to compare the sections they marked in the Warm Up Activity with those that George Washington marked.
3. Ask students to complete the worksheet *The Constitution as a Job Description* (included in the ZIP file download).
4. As a final assessment, ask students to create a job description for the role of the President in 1787 using the U.S. Constitution as evidence.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

1. Ask students to create a resume, or LinkedIn profile, for George Washington using the George Washington Timeline on Mount Vernon's website for biographical details. Have students compare resumes and hold a class discussion to evaluate if students believe George Washington was qualified for the position of President.
 - a. George Washington Timeline
<http://www.mountvernon.org/education/for-students/gw-k-5>