

A USER'S GUIDE TO THE CONSTITUTION

TOPIC 1: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION IS A BLUEPRINT FOR SELF-GOVERNANCE BY A POLITICALLY-EQUAL PEOPLE

A new country chooses to be founded on the idea of 'ordered liberty' and designs a federal republic to transform that idea into the reality of political equality for every citizen. This segment focuses on the American definition of liberty as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the ramifications that are the result of a government rooted in the notion of political equality.

TOPIC 2: THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

How the governmental power created by the consent of the governed is apportioned and managed to promote liberty. This segment focuses on how the Constitution is designed: (a) to make the idea of political equality a reality via representational government, and (b) to manage against the abuse of public power.

TOPIC 3: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE SOVEREIGN STATES

This segment focuses on one of the U.S. Government's two external relationships: its relationship with the States (Federalism). As to this relationship, a new country chooses federalism over confederation. How has that experience fared since 1789? Does the Civil War reveal that there is a design flaw in the Constitution? What is the state of federalism in the modern day?

TOPIC 4: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL

As for the U.S. Government's second external relationship, its relationship with the individual, this segment focuses on the balance between the rights of the majority, as represented by the State, and the rights of the individual. When should the rights of the minority override the will of the majority? What is a fundamental right and how should that be determined?

TOPIC 5: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS

This segment focuses on how the design of the Constitution is working today: (a) by examining the modern expansion of rulemaking in lieu of lawmaking, and (b) by examining the modern expansion of judicial review and the resultant stresses on the Supreme Court. This segment will also identify important Constitutional issues on the near horizon, including free speech; a free press, and maintaining a robust and trustworthy electoral system.