

Evaluating the Impact on Government – Sample Answers

Directions: Using what you have learned about the big ideas from each document (Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, English Bill of Rights, and *Common Sense*), determine how these influences appear in the U.S. Constitution. Read each U.S. Constitution passage below, mark text that helps you identify the big idea, and write the main idea in your own words. In the third column, write the big idea that is being discussed in the passage from the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. Constitution Passage	What does this mean in your own words	Big Idea
“We the People of the United States...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”	We the people establish the Constitution.	Self-government
“This Constitution and the laws of the United States ... shall be the supreme law of the land.” All government officials “shall be bound by an oath to support this constitution.” – Article VI	The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and all government officials are required to follow the Constitution.	Rule of Law
The first ten amendments in the Bill of Rights guarantees certain rights and freedoms that include: Freedom of speech, the press, and religion, right to petition the government and to bear arms	The Bill of Rights guarantees certain rights and freedoms.	Rights
The U.S. Constitution created three branches of government. Each branch is given the power to check, or limit the power of the other two. The system of checks and balances keeps any one branch from getting too powerful.	The U.S. Constitution has three branches of government that are limited and can check each other.	Limited government
“No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law” U.S. Constitution, 5th Amendment	No person shall be deprived due process.	Due process

Adapted from iCivics Colonial Influences: <http://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/colonial-influences>