

# The U.S. Constitution

Did you know more than one hundred sixty countries have written charters based on the U.S. Constitution? The Constitution of the United States was a very important document that the nation needed after winning the Revolutionary War. The U.S. Constitution was created by many people, so that our new country would have laws.

The U.S. Constitution was a very important document that changed the world. It lists rights and freedoms for all American citizens. Furthermore, the U.S. Constitution is a set of laws for running the U.S. government. In the U.S. government there are three branches of government. These three branches are the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch. These branches were created so each branch would not get all of the power.

After winning the Revolutionary War against Great Britain, we needed laws for our new country. The framers wanted a government run by the people. Therefore, they wrote the U.S. Constitution because they wanted to establish justice and insure happiness for all American citizens. Another reason why they created the United States Constitution is the U.S. needed to set up a military to protect the United States.

To create this revolutionary document, James Madison and fifty-six other delegates compromised and discussed ideas for the constitution. They held a series of meetings called the Constitutional Convention. In addition, they added a Bill of Rights because some people did not agree with the new way of government. The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments. They also wrote the Federalist Papers to get people to accept the Constitution of the United States. The U.S. Constitution mostly followed Madison's Virginia Plan.

As you can see, the U.S. Constitution is extremely important to our country and its history. The U.S. Constitution was not only important to our nation, but had a great impact on the world.

## Units 1–10 Assessments

### 4-Point Scoring Rubrics

#### Informative/Explanatory Writing

4	The response is well organized and developed. It demonstrates all of the features of informative writing and includes accurate information from the source(s). The writer uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly and has few or no mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
3	The response is adequately organized and developed. It demonstrates most features of informative writing and includes accurate information from the source(s). The writer uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly most of the time and may make some mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, but they do not hinder meaning.
2	The response is somewhat organized and developed. It demonstrates some features of informative writing and includes some information from the source(s). The writer uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly some of the time and makes many mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, which hinder the overall meaning.
1	The response is disorganized and undeveloped. It demonstrates little understanding of informative writing and does not develop the topic. The writer rarely uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly and makes many mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, which hinder the overall meaning.
0	The response does not fit the writing prompt or is incomplete.

#### Informational Essay: Score 4 (Grade 5)

Entire essay is well developed and organized. Topic sentences present and relevant. There is thorough use of supporting details. There are no grammatical errors.