

Constitution Simplified.

ARTICLE 1: Legislative Branch/ Congress

- Section 1: sets up a bicameral congress (House + Senate)
- Section 2: Defines House of Representatives
 - serves a two-year term
 - terms of running for House
 - number of reps based on state population
- Section 3: Defines the Senate
 - serves a six-year term
 - every state gets two senators
- Section 4: Each state sets up their own election process
- Section 5: Congress must keep a certain number of members present to meet, neither house can adjourn without the others permission
- Section 6: Congress members will be paid. Congress members can not hold other government positions.
- Section 7: How a bill becomes a law, revenue bills start in the House, Pocket Veto (if the President doesn't sign a bill within 10 days and Congress isn't in session, it doesn't pass)
- Section 8: Congress has certain explicit powers (taxing, borrowing money, regulate commerce, rules for U.S. citizenship and bankruptcy, establish post offices and roads, create courts, declare war) and certain implicit powers (elastic clause)
- Section 9: Limits on Congress
 - Congress can not impose habeas corpus without emergency
 - Can not be held in jail without reason
 - Laws can not prefer a state over another
 - Congress needs permission to spend money

Section 10: States can not tax other states imports/exports, make treaties, or make their own money

ARTICLE 2: EXECUTIVE BRANCH (President and Vice President)

Section 1: Establishes Presidency

- President and VP serve four year terms
- Presidents elected by the ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Section 2: Power of the President

- leads the military
- can grant pardons (set free criminals)
- can make treaties with Senate approval and appoint officials with Senate confirmation

Section 3: President takes care that the laws are properly executed

Section 4: President can be kicked out of office (impeached) for treason, bribery, or other high crimes

ARTICLE 3: JUDICIAL BRANCH (Supreme Court)

Section 1: Establishes Supreme Court as the highest court

- Judges serve for life

Section 2: Which cases the Supreme Court hears

- Cases regarding the Constitution, federal laws, and dispute between states
- Guarantees a jury for criminal court cases
- Appeals the ruling of lower courts

Section 3: Defines treason as the crime of trying to overthrow the American government or of helping your country's enemies during war

ARTICLE 4: STATES RIGHTS

Section 1: All states must honor the laws of the other states

Section 2: States can not discriminate against citizens from other states. States must return fugitives to the state where the crime was committed

Section 3: Congress' process of admitting new states. Who controls federal land.

Section 4: Guarantees states protection from invasion. "Power by the People" government.

ARTICLE 5: AMENDMENT PROCESS

Section 1: Proposal by 2/3 of both houses.

Section 2: Ratification by ¾ of state legislatures

ARTICLE 6: NATIONAL SUPREMACY

Section 1: Supremacy Clause: federal law overrides state law. Oath Clause: All officials must swear to support the Constitution. No religious tests can be required for office.

ARTICLE 7: RATIFICATION

To get the Constitution approved, 9/13 of the original states had to approve