

# Power Point

## Project Citizen

Spring Project  
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### Five Concepts of the American Political System

- Liberalism:
  - individual rights and freedoms are important and protected
  - What are some rights and freedoms that you think are most important?
- Constitutionalism:
  - the Constitution is the highest law in the land and everyone must obey it
  - Look at the excerpt from the preamble of the constitution on page 3...what are the five major purposes of our government?

### Five Concepts of the American Political System, pt 2

- Democracy:
  - Popular Sovereignty:
    - Citizens allow the government to rule over them, knowing that if they government abuses the power then the government can be changed.
- Republic (Representative Democracy):
  - People elect people to represent them and to make decisions on their behalf.
- Federalism:
  - Power and responsibility are divided between the state and the federal government...both are important.

### Critical Thinking Questions:

- Give examples from the American political system of each of the five concepts that you have studied. What other terms or concepts might you use to describe the American political system?

### Critical Thinking Questions:

- What might be the advantages or disadvantages of each of the five concepts in protecting the rights of individuals?
- In our democratic republic, the people, through the US Constitution and their state constitutions, have given the responsibility to make most decisions about government to their representatives. Why, then, should individuals participate in their government? Should they have the right **not** to participate? Explain.

### Critical Thinking Questions:

- If individuals wish to participate, what tools do they need to participate competently and responsibly?

### Project Citizen Overview Purpose

- Understand our system of government
- Have the knowledge, skills and willingness to participate in government
- Participate with an understanding of the fundamentals of government

### Project Citizen Overview Procedure

- Find a problem that the school, community, society or government is not handling or is handling poorly
- Conduct research on the problem
- Identify solutions and weigh advantages and disadvantages
- Propose a solution that requires government action
- Create an action plan to influence government agencies that deal with that problem - attempt to get them to consider or adopt your solution

### Public Policy Definition

- "...a concept or set of ideas that guides a course of action or a procedure used in dealing with public issues or problems."
- Public policies are created to help protect the rights and well-being of people
- What are some public policies?
  - All youth get a free public education
  - Manages the use of public land by private companies
  - Creates a court system to deal with lawbreakers
  - Promote conservation by creating recycling opportunities

### Public Policy Implementation

- Government agencies acting alone
  - Federal government regulation social security
- Government agencies working with civil society
  - Gov't awarding a contract to a private company to construct roads and bridges
- Government agencies and civil society acting independently, but on the same problem
  - Providing homeless shelters
  - Hurricane Katrina - Red Cross and the government
- Civil Society handling problems that the government is not dealing with
  - Religious groups dealing with problems

### Public Policy Procedural Justice

- In order for procedures to be fair they must (things to consider when creating an action plan):
  - Be open to the public
  - Provide relevant and accurate information
  - Provide fair notice
  - Provide expert assistance when needed
  - Provide the right to supportive witnesses and to examine opposing witnesses
  - Provide the right to an impartial hearing
  - Provide the right to appeal