

Citizenship in the Nation: Branches of Government

7. Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions. Explain how citizens are involved in each branch. For each branch of government, explain the importance of the system of checks and balances.

Branch	Functions	How Citizens are Involved	Checks and Balances
Legislative Congress House and Senate	Makes the laws Appropriates funds Power to impeach (senate to try impeachments) Power to tax Borrow money Regulate commerce Laws on naturalization, bankruptcy Coin money Establish post offices Promote the progress of science, copyright Create courts inferior to supreme court Define and punish piracy and felonies Declare war Raise and support Armies, provide and maintain Navy Make Laws for DC	Elect Senators Elect Representatives Right to petition government for redress of grievances	Checks on Legislature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts decide if laws are constitutional • No ex post facto laws • Cannot hold appointment in executive branch • Prez can veto laws Balances to other Branches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can override vetoes • Senate confirms executive branch officials • Privileged from arrest • Senate ratifies treaties • Senate confirms judges • Sets Jurisdiction of the Courts Subpeona documents and testimony from executive

Counselor Notes

<p>Executive Headed by a President</p>	<p>Administers (executes) the laws Commander in Chief Power to pardon Make treaties Appoints ambassadors, ministers counselors Appoints Judges Recommends legislation</p>	<p>Chose electors for electoral college – Votes Serve in an agency</p>	<p>Checks on Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No money drawn from treasury unless appropriated by law. • Must execute the laws <p>Balances to other branches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can Veto legislation • Recess appointments • Appoints Judges
<p>Judicial The courts, judges</p>	<p>Decides when the laws are broken Decides punishment Decides if laws are constitutional Decides cases between states</p>	<p>Right to file suit</p>	<p>Checks on Judicial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be impeached • Right to trial by jury • Can be impeached • Congress sets jurisdiction of courts • Congress and President can change laws <p>Balances to other branches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decides if laws are constitutional • Decides cases when citizens sue executive