

Core Constitutional Ideas

Whatever lesson you teach, make sure it lands at least two of these core ideas — widely recognized principles that sit at the heart of what the Constitution is and means. They're a starting point, not a checklist. Make sure they align with the specific objectives your teacher has for the visit, matching your lesson and grade level. Fewer ideas taught well, with room for discussion, will land better than a rushed survey.

1



The rule of law

No one is above the law — not even the government. The same rules apply to everyone.

2



We the people

Government's power comes from the people — students have a voice through voting, juries, and speaking up.

3



Rights & liberties

The Constitution protects freedoms — speech, religion, and fair treatment — for everyone who lives here.

4



Equality & fairness

Everyone is treated equally under the law — a promise the country is continuously striving to keep.

5



Checks & balances

Government power is divided among branches so no one part can take over — and courts decide independently.

6



Civic agency

The Constitution was designed to change — amendments make it a living framework that every generation helps to shape.

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