Program Name	CHUH ABLE (Cleveland Heights)
Staff Responsible for Lesson	S. Ling

Date(s) Used	Nov. 8, 2010
Civics Category	III. U.S. History and Government and Citizenship Preparation
Civics Objective	1. Government and Law - Basic Organization of Federal Government
Time Frame to Complete Lesson	2 ½ hour class with 15 minute break
EFL(s)	NRS Levels 5 and 6
Standard(s)	L 5.3, L 6.3; S 5.5, S 5.6, S 6.6; R 5.2, R 5.4, R 6.1, R 6.2, R 6.3, R 6.4
Benchmark(s)	 Students participate in genuine conversations in English on topic of structure of government. Students work together in English to find answers on the Internet - using communication (speaking and listening) as well as reading skills to complete task. Students read both in handout and on Internet authentic material about structure of government and have to then rephrase the knowledge.
Materials	 Laptops/computers with Internet access Handouts (see attached) The Three Branches of the U.S. Federal (National) Government Internet Search Questions

Activities	I. Students discuss their national
7101111103	governments in small groups of 3-4
	students, describing how their government is constructed and chosen.
	[15 minutes]
	II. Students brainstorm with teacher over
	what they know of the construction and
	election process of the U.S. Federal
	Government. (Teacher should write ideas
	on board.) [10 minutes]
	III. Students read over "The Three Branches of the U.S. Federal (National)
	Government." The students should use
	English-English dictionaries (hardcopy or
	on-line with the laptops) to look up any of
	the bold-faced words they don't
	understand from context. [20 minutes]
	IV. Students re-read the text as a whole
	group (with each student reading one or
	so lines aloud). Teacher should stop
	periodically for clarification and
	questions. [20 minutes]
	V. Students use the laptops/computers to
	find the answers to the questions on the
	"Internet Search Questions" handout in
	pairs or threes. [55 minutes] *
	*Depending on length of class or level of students,
	this last exercise could be used on a second class
	day after a quick review of what was learned in the
	previous class from the "The Three Branches of
	the U.S. Federal (National) Government" handout.
Assessment/	Copies of Internet Search Handout are added to
Evidence	each student's folder.
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Reflection	Students are required to participate in authentic
	conversations and readings on topic, allowing them
	at each stage of lesson to review as well as go
	deeper into the topic in the English language.

(attached handouts below on following pages)

The Three Branches of the U.S. Federal (National) Government

There are three branches of the United States Government. The three branches are the **legislative** branch, the executive branch and the judicial branch. The legislative branch makes the country's laws.

The executive branch enforces the country's laws. The judicial branch interprets the country's laws.

Legislative Branch

The legislative branch is also called **Congress**. Congress has two houses. They are the **House of Representatives** (the lower house) and the **Senate** (the upper house). There are 435 congressmen and women in the House of Representatives and 100 senators in the Senate. Congressmen and women are elected for two-year terms and senators are elected for six-year terms. Neither have term limits. They are elected by the citizens of the U.S. These elections are **staggered** over two year **intervals** so that there could never be a House and Senate with all new members.

These two houses of Congress were created as a way to compromise between how power was divided between states in the national government. The upper house, the Senate, gives equal

representation to all states, no matter the size of a state's population. This keeps larger states from ignoring the wants and needs of smaller states. The number of representatives in the House is based on a state's current population (from the last **census**), giving larger states more power. This keeps the minority (in smaller states) from having too great of an influence over the wants and needs of the majority (in larger states).

Executive Branch

The executive branch is made up of the **president**, the **vice-president**, the **cabinet**, and the president's special **advisors**. The president is elected for four-year terms and may serve no more than two terms. (The vice-president, the cabinet, and advisors can serve as long as the president who appointed them is in office.) The **electoral college** elects the president and vice-president; the president appoints his advisors as well as his cabinet (but the Senate must approve of his or her cabinet appointments).

The president and vice-president are the only two positions voted on by all citizens in a national vote, but the final choice of president rests with the electoral college, made up of **electors**. Each state has electors (the selection of electors is different in each state). The number of electors for each state is one for each senator and one for each representative of that state in the House (numbers will vary based on a state's population). These electors make the final decision on who the state will vote for in the presidential election. So in reality when a U.S. citizen **casts a vote** for a certain candidate, he or she is really voting for an "elector" who will make the final vote. It has been very rare that electors do not vote for the candidate who won the popular vote (had the majority of votes in a state). This system is meant to ensure

that states with smaller populations have a more equal or "balanced" voice in the election of a president, as it makes it possible for a candidate to win the election without winning the popular vote (which happened in 2000 between Gore and Bush).

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch is made up of the many federal courts in the U.S. The highest court in the U.S. is the **Supreme Court**. There are nine Supreme Court Justices. There is one **Chief Justice** and eight **Associate Justices**. The president appoints most federal judges, who must then be approved by the Senate. Most of these federal judges are judges for life or until they retire. (Judges on a state and local level are sometimes appointed or are sometimes elected by the citizens, depending on state and local laws. In Ohio, most judges are elected by the citizens and have a limited term.)

Branches of the U.S. Federal Government

Go to http:/	//bensguio	le.gpo.g	jov/3-5/	'governme	ent/branc	hes.html	and v	with y	your	partner(s)) find	the	answers
to following	questions	on the	structure	of the U.S	S. Federa	al Govern	nment						

- On the first page you find when you type in the above web address, find the answers to the following questions:
 - a. What kind of government did the "Founding Fathers" want to form?

b. How do the parts of the government work together while also making sure the rights of citizens are not ignored or limited?

- 2. Now click on the blue link "Legislative Branch" and find the answers to the following questions:
 - a. What is the legislative branch made up of?

	b.	What power did the Constitution give Congress?
	C.	What are the two parts of Congress?
3.	Now cli a.	ick on the blue link "Congress" and find the answers to the following questions: Where does Congress meet?
	u.	Where does congress meet.
	b.	What is its primary duty?
	c.	What are its other powers?
4.	Now cli	ick on the blue link "The House of Representatives" and find the answers to the following
	a.	How many total representatives are there in the House?

ŀ	٥.	What does each member represent?
Ć	С.	How many representatives does each state at least have?
(d.	What are the three requirements to be a representative?
		1.
		2.
		3.
•	Э.	How long is the term a representative serves? Is there a limit on the number of terms a
		representative can serve?
f		What special jobs does the House have that only it can do?

5.	Now cli	ck on the blue link "Senate" and find the answers to the following questions:
	a.	How many people does each state send to the Senate? How many total senators are
		there in the Senate?
	b.	How long is the term each senator serves? Is there a limit on the number of terms a
		senator can serve?
	c.	What are the three requirements to be a senator?
		1.
		2.
		3.
	d.	What special jobs does the Senate only do?

6.	Now click on the purple link "Branches of Government" and then click on the blue link "Executive
	Branch." Find the answers to the following questions:
	a. Who is the head of the executive branch of the government?
	b. Who does the President get help from?
	c. What special jobs do the President, Vice-President, Departments, and Independent
	Agencies have?
	President:
	Vice-President:
	Departments:

Independent Agencies:

7.	Now cli	ck on the blue link "The President" and find the answers to the following questions:
	a.	What does the President do if he agrees with a law?
	b.	What can the President do if he dislikes a law? What is his action called? What can
		Congress do if the President does this action?
	c.	What can the President NOT do despite all his or her powers?
	d.	What are the President's and Congress's role in making treaties with other countries?

	e.	What is the President's role with government workers? What is his or her role with the
		U.S. military?
	f.	What are the requirements to become President?
	g.	How long a term does the President serve? Is there a limit on the number of terms? If so
		how many and why?
8.	Now cli	ck on the blue link "The President's Cabinet" and find the answers to the following
	questio	ns:
	a.	What is the purpose of the Cabinet?

b.	Who does the Cabinet include?
c.	How are the 14 secretaries from the executive departments and the Attorney General
	chosen?
d.	Name the 15 executive department agencies:
	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.
	7.

		8.
		9.
		10.
		11.
		12.
		13.
		14.
		15.
9.	Now cl	ick again on the purple link "Branches of Government" and then click on the blue link
	"Judicia	al Branch." Find the answers to the following questions:
	a.	What is the judicial branch of the government made up of?
	b.	What is the highest court in the U.S.?
	c.	What do the courts decide?

10.	Now c	lick on the blue link "The Supreme Court" and find the answers to the following questions:
10.		How many cases are sent to the Supreme Court each year? How many of those cases
	a.	How many cases are sent to the Supreme Court each year! How many of those cases
		are actually accepted by the justices to be heard?
	b.	Once the Supreme Court makes a decisions what are the two ways to change that
		decision?
		1.
		2.
	C.	How any justices are on the Supreme Court? How are they chosen?

d.	How long can a justice remain on the Supreme Court?
e.	What are the requirements to be a justice?
f.	What former president late became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?