

## EL/Civics Lesson Plan

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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Students participate in genuine conversations in English on topic of structure of government.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Students work together in English to find answers on the Internet - using communication (speaking and listening) as well as reading skills to complete task.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Students read both in handout and on Internet authentic material about structure of government and have to then rephrase the knowledge.</li> </ul>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Laptops/computers with Internet access</li> <li>▪ Handouts (see attached)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Three Branches of the U.S. Federal (National) Government</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Internet Search Questions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p>Activities</p>	<p>I. Students discuss their national governments in small groups of 3-4 students, describing how their government is constructed and chosen. [15 minutes]</p> <p>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]</p> <p>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]</p> <p>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]</p> <p>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] *</p> <p>*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.</p>
<p>Assessment/ Evidence</p>	<p>Copies of Internet Search Handout are added to each student's folder.</p>

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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.
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(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

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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

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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.)











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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:





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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.

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8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

9. Now click again on the purple link "Branches of Government" and then click on the blue link

"Judicial 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?

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10. Now click on the blue link "The Supreme Court" and find the answers to the following questions:

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?

