

# Handout B: How Is Government Limited in the Constitution?

Article/Section of the Constitution	How Is Government Limited?
Article I, A	Only Congress has the power to legislate or make laws. House members are elected every two years, and Senators are elected every six years so that the people can determine who should continue to serve or be replaced.
Article I, B	Congress has the power to regulate commerce so that trade is uniform throughout the country. People who are arrested should be brought to trial quickly so that justice can be served. Titles of nobility are not allowed so that one group of people does not receive more benefits than another.
Article I, C	Members of Congress cannot be arrested for speech made during debates or speeches during sessions so that other branches of government or other members cannot keep the speaker from expressing their opinions. Legislation must have the approval of both houses of Congress and the President before becoming law or, if the President vetoes a law, Congress must vote again and two-thirds of Congress must agree to pass the law. This checks both the legislative and executive branches from passing unjust laws.
Article II	The President shall hold the executive power to enforce laws. Each state will appoint electors to elect the president to help retain states' power in the nation. The President shall make treaties and nominate and appoint ambassadors, Supreme Court justices, and other officers with the advice and consent of the Senate. The President can only make treaties or appoint officers with the approval of the Congress through the Senate.
Article III	The judicial power shall be held by the Supreme Court of the United States. Congress has the power to establish other courts. The Supreme Court shall hear cases related to the Constitution or between two or more states. All crimes, except impeachment, shall be tried by a jury. The people as jurors, not the court, will determine criminal cases.
Article IV and V	All rights and responsibilities of citizenship are the same in each state to ensure that each citizen is treated fairly. Each state shall have a republican form of government to enable the people to choose their leaders in state and national governments. Amendments can be proposed by states if the state believes that the Constitution needs to be altered.
Article VI and VII	The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land. To protect the religious freedom of citizens, no religious tests will be required to hold offices. The Constitution will be ratified when nine of the thirteen states approve it.