The Six Big Ideas of the Constitution

Limited Government
Separation of Power
Checks and Balances
Republicanism
Federalism
Popular Sovereignty
The Constitution Introduced

• The United States Constitution was signed September 17\textsuperscript{th}, 1787
  – Individual states then had to ratify constitution
• It is only around 4,400 words
  – It is the oldest and shortest constitution of any major country
Limited Government

• A political system in which legalized force is restricted through delegated and enumerated powers
  – Powers specifically given to government

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.
Thomas Jefferson
Reasoning:

- People are the source of governments power, the government only has as much power as the people give it.
Separation of Power

• Power is divided between the three Branches of government
  – Executive (President)
  – Judicial (Supreme Court)
  – Legislative (House of Representatives and Senate)
Reasoning:

• The Founding Fathers did not want one branch to be able to become too powerful and controlling.
Checks and Balances

- Each branch has the ability to restrain by amending or vetoing the acts of the other two branches.
Reasoning:

• This makes the government much less efficient, but also prevents one branch from gaining power over the other two.
Republicanism

• A form of government in which leaders are elected for a specific group of people for a specific amount of time, and laws are passed to benefit all not just a select few.
Reasoning:

• The entire country will not have the same beliefs and each other
• By limiting term limits it makes the government more responsive to the will of the people

WE READ THE CONSTITUTION
REPUBLICANISM
A REFRESHER COURSE
Federalism

• Power is divided between a central government, and smaller, local governments

![Federalism Diagram](image-url)
Reasoning:

- Allows central government to be powerful enough to be effective
- Allows states governments to handle local issues
Popular Sovereignty

- The Government is created at the will of the people
Reasoning

• What the people give, can also be taken away