

## **Discussion Questions:**

# **Module 1 Discussion- Introduction and Main Themes of Democracy**

### **Discussion Topic:**

**What would happen if we didn't have a government? What would our every day experiences be if we NEVER had any type of government?**

### **Instructions:**

Please create a new thread with your personal answer in a short paragraph, and then respond to 2 (two) other student's responses. For your two replies please respond whether you agree or disagree with your fellow classmates' responses and if there is anything else that you might want to add to the conversation. Please always use words of encouragement as we are all here to help each other out.

### **Reminder:**

This discussion is due Wednesday.

### **Netiquette (Net Etiquette):**

Netiquette or Net Etiquette refers to the acceptable standards of behavior when interacting in an online environment. There are a few simple rules:

**Be Respectful of Others:** It is important to be courteous and respectful of others time, bandwidth, and opinions; behave in a manner that is professional; never "say" anything online

that you wouldn't be willing to say to someone in person; remember that there are many different viewpoints, beliefs and ideas – embrace the variety, you may change your opinion ... understand that we may disagree as it is part of the learning experience ... if you do disagree, remember to challenge the idea and not the person; be open minded and listen to other's thoughts and ideas.

- **Privacy:** Posting private information in the wrong place can have serious consequences. Respect the privacy of classmates and what is shared in the course.
- **Appropriate Language and Communication:** Check your writing for errors before posting, either use a word processing program (such as Word) or use the spell check tool in the text boxes within the course. Use proper spelling and grammar. Refrain from using social media abbreviations (e.g. lol, omg, lmao, etc.) and any inappropriate or offensive words. Remember do not type in all capital letters – it is the same as yelling at someone and is considered rude. Be careful with the use of humor and sarcasm, both can be easily misunderstood without the benefit of seeing facial expressions and hearing inflection and tone of voice.
- **Just the Facts:** Respect other people's time by keeping messages, posts, and comments short and to-the-point. Support stated opinions with facts and reliable sources. Review all discussion posts before posting your own to avoid redundancy. Remember to be friendly, positive, and self-reflective when participating.

## **Module 1 Lesson 2, Discussion: The Constitution**

### **Discussion Topic:**

**If you could create a new Amendment to the Constitution what would it be?**

**How would you convince the American People that your amendment was necessary?**

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disagree with your fellow classmates' responses and if there is anything else that you might want to add to the conversation. Please always use words of encouragement as we are all here to help each other out.

### **Reminder:**

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## **Module 1, Lesson 3 Discussion: Federalism**

### **Discussion Topic:**

**Does the Federal Government have too much power? Or not enough? Why or why not?**

### **Instructions:**

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## **Module 2, Lesson 1 Discussion: Congress**

### **Discussion Topic:**

**Do you feel represented by your members of Congress? Why or why not?**

### **Instructions:**

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## **Module 2, Lesson 2: The Presidency**

### **Discussion Topic:**

**What is the most important quality for a President to have?**

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## **Module 2, Lesson 3 Discussion: The Courts**

**Discussion Topic:**

**Is the fact that Supreme Court Justices serve for life, a good thing, or a bad thing? Why?**

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## **Module 3, Lesson 1 Discussion: Social Movements**

### **Discussion Topic:**

We have learned about the history of American social movements. However, in the modern era, a number of movements have arisen like the Arab Spring and #metoo, which used social media and other technologies to help organize the movement.

**How might social media and other technologies impact the creation of social movements? Do they make it easier to organize, or do they encourage "slacktivism" where individuals vocally support movements, but don't take real action? Or is it some combination of both?**

### **Instructions:**

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## **Module 3, Lesson 2, Discussion: Interest Groups**

### **Discussion Topic:**

**Are Interest Groups necessary for political life? Do we need them to properly interact with our elected officials or do they provide more harm than good?**

**If Interest Groups are harmful, how do you propose we properly communicate our wants and needs with the Federal Government?**

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## **Module 3, Lesson 3 Discussion: Political Parties**

### **Discussion Topic:**

It is easy to dismiss the two party system as being harmful. People point to a lack of precise representation, the idea that one of the two parties does not exactly represent their beliefs, as one of the main criticisms.

It is harder, but more interesting to look at the opposite point of view:

**Why might a two party system be advantageous? Why might it be better than a multi-party system?**

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## **Module 4, Lesson 1 Discussion: Voting and Political Participation**

**Discussion Topic:**

How might we solve some of the problems with American elections?

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## **Module 4, Lesson 2 Discussion: Civil Rights and Liberties**

**Discussion Topic:**

**What is the difference between a right and a liberty? What makes something a right and not a liberty, or vice versa? Think about specific rights and liberties and why one is a right and one is a liberty.**

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## **Module 4, Lesson 3 Discussion: California**

**Discussion Topic:**

**Is Direct Democracy a good thing for California? Does it need to be reformed? Is it a tool of special interest?**

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