

A Quick Tour of the Constitution

1. The Preamble lists 6 purposes, or goals, of the Constitution
 - a. Form a more perfect union
 - b. Establish justice
 - c. Domestic tranquility
 - d. Common defense
 - e. General welfare
 - f. Liberty
2. Article 1
 - a. Congress
 - i. House of Representatives
 - ii. Senate
3. Article 2
 - a. Presidency
 - i. Executive Power
 - ii. Commander-in-chief
 - iii. "State of the Union" address
4. Article 3
 - a. U.S. Supreme Court
 - b. Congress creates inferior courts
5. Articles 4-7
 - a. 4 = Admitting new states
 - b. 5 = Amendment process
 - c. 6 = Supremacy Clause
 - d. 7 = Ratification
6. Principles of US Government
 - a. Popular Sovereignty
 - i. People are the source of power
 - b. Limited Government
 - i. Gov. has only the powers people give it
 - c. Federalism
 - i. National and State govts coexist.
 - d. Separation of Powers
 - i. Power is divided in 3 branches
 - e. Checks and Balances
 - i. Each branch can limit the others
7. Ratification Debate
 - a. Federalists
 - i. Support Constitution
 - ii. Division of powers would protect from tyranny
 - iii. Wrote Federalist Papers arguing merits of Constitution
 - b. Anti-Federalists
 - i. Opposed Constitution
 - ii. Responsible for addition of Bill of Rights (1st 10 amendments)