

Making Systems Simple!

A Guide to Understanding Systems of Government

Benchmark: SS.7.C.3.2 Compare parliamentary, federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will define parliamentary, federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.
- Students will compare the organizational structures of systems of government.
- Students will recognize examples of these systems of government.
- Students will analyze scenarios describing various systems of government.

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Making Systems Simple! PowerPoint
- Computer
- Projector
- Speakers
- Sheet of paper (one per student)
- Markers

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

Lesson Overview

Warm Up Using the Making Systems Simple PowerPoint, have students describe the diagrams of the systems of government. Students should focus on the flow of the arrows as that represents the flow of power. Debrief each diagram with the students by having them discuss their observations.

Using the Making Systems Simple PowerPoint, discuss the different systems of government, focusing on how power is distributed.

Unitary systems: There is one central governing body. **Smaller state/regional governments have powers granted/delegated to them.**

Confederal systems: Power is held by state/regional governments. **Central government receives power from the smaller governments** and holds little authority on their own.

Federal systems: Power is **shared** between a central government and smaller state/regional governments.

Have students develop a “Foldable” as directed in the PowerPoint presentation to incorporate the three systems studied and corresponding definitions and diagrams to represent each system. Ask students to draw a continuum on the outside of their foldable. On one end write “most centralized government” and on the other end write “least centralized government”. Students should place the

systems in order of most centralized government to least centralized government in the presentation. Debrief with students using the PowerPoint and identify countries that have each system of government.

Continue with the PowerPoint presentation. Highlight and compare a parliamentary system to a presidential system (descriptions of each system are provided in the notes of the PowerPoint). The presentation will also show the structure of the legislative and executive branches of Florida's government.

Check for Understanding The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask students to explain how they made their decision.

Lesson extension:

In the [Florida Students' "Government: A 'Systematic' Approach" Presentation](#), use the "Let's Practice" section to identify unitary, federal, and confederal systems within real life scenarios.