

**LESSON TITLE**

A Fourth Branch of Government - Marie Gagnon
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LESSON GOAL(S)	ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S)
Critically evaluate the purpose of the structure of government.	Does the government need more than three branches?

**CIVICS STANDARDS ALIGNMENT (STATE STANDARDS & C3 FRAMEWORK)**

*What standards from the NH State Standards and/or from the C3 are emphasized in the lesson?*

STATE STANDARDS	C3 STANDARDS
Nature and Purpose of Government	X
Structure of NH & U.S. Government	X
World and U.S.'s place in it	X
Rights & Responsibilities	

**COMMON CORE LITERACY STANDARDS**

*What Common Core Literacy Standards are emphasized in the lesson?*

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS	X
CRAFT AND STRUCTURE	X
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS	
RANGE OF READING AND LEVEL OF TEXT COMPLEXITY	

**LESSON PLAN**

*Identify the steps needed to successfully facilitate the lesson plan*

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students should already be familiar with the structure of the government as defined by the federal constitution.</li> <li>2. Distribute to students the instructions for the task and review the assignment and expectations with the students.</li> <li>3. Complete a graphic organizer with the students on each branch of government if you feel it would be helpful to students when thinking about what the government currently does and weigh that against what they feel the government should also do.</li> <li>4. Students and opportunity to get together in small groups and discuss what they see as important needs of society today and ways in which the government could better address these needs.</li> <li>5. Share out small group discussion - chart on the board student ideas &amp; thinking to help provide inspiration for</li> </ol>
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6. Distribute the essay outline to students and provide in-class work time to complete the outline.
7. Use this time to circulate through the classroom and conference with students on their work, helping students generated ideas as necessary.

## ASSESSMENTS

*What assessment tasks will students complete as the culmination of the lesson?*

Students will write an essay proposing a fourth branch of government. Instructions for students, sample outline, and sample of student work product are included below in other materials.

## SUPPORTING MATERIALS

*Are there any other materials or outside resources that are needed to facilitate the lesson/assessment tasks?*

### **Instructions for students on the assessment task:**

When the constitution was originally created it outline three branches of government that operate in accordance with the checks and balances. However, American society has changed greatly since the constitution was ratified in 1787. Maybe it is time to revisit the three branches of government and create a new branch.

You will write an essay This new branch would make the government so much better for many reasons. How would you accomplish this? Remember to take your voters through all of the steps involved in order to add your new branch to our already existing government. How would the new branch be approved? What would the new branch be responsible for? How would checks and balances work to make sure that your new branch would not become too powerful? Who would head the new branch? These are some of the many questions that your potential voters are asking.

- Paragraph 1: Introduction (Please include the basics of your branch such as the name of your branch and the head of the branch, a very brief description of the various jobs of your branch, and why it is important to add this branch)
- Paragraph 2: Membership in your branch (Please include the head of your branch and other members, various departments and agencies such as the cabinet, how someone becomes a member of the branch, what are the qualifications to be head of the branch, etc.)
- Paragraph 3: Jobs of the branch (Please include how the work will be divided. Give an example and explain its path to becoming a working part of our federal government why is it important for this work to have its own branch)
- Paragraph 4: Checks and balances (Please include information on how this branch will check the others and how the other branches will check your branch to maintain an equal amount of power throughout the branches)
- Paragraph 5: Conclusion (Please review the description of your branch, members of your branch and how they gain their jobs, how checks and balances affects your branch, and how it makes our government better for all US citizens).

Remember this is part of your political campaign to be elected president. You want to be very convincing so that people will vote for you for President.

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### **Sample Outline/Graphic Organizer for the Essay:**

Paragraph 1 - Introduction

Topic sentence, a hook to make your audience want to continue to read

A brief description of what you are going to talk about in your next three paragraphs (membership, jobs, and checks and balances. Remember, each of your three topics should have at least one sentence explaining/describing it.

Sentence 1:

Sentence 2:

Sentence 3:

Concluding sentence for your paragraph. (Hint this is where you want to restate that your new branch would make our country so much better which is why it is part of your presidential campaign.

#### Paragraph 2 - Membership

Topic sentence, who is the head of your branch and how to they get the job.

Other sentences will include other members of your branch and how they get their job, qualifications for members of the branch, and how to get a job in your branch. Remember to be very specific and write at least three more sentences.

Sentence 1:

Sentence 2:

Sentence 3:

Concluding sentence for your paragraph. Sum up what you have said about the members of your new branch. Remember, you are explaining your new branch to your constituents.

#### Paragraph 3: Jobs and duties of your branch

Topic sentence, what is your branch responsible for in the federal government or what is its job.

Other sentences will include other responsibilities of your branch and how those responsibilities are carried out. How is the work divided among other departments and agencies in your branch.

Sentence 1:

Sentence 2:

Sentence 3:

Concluding sentence for your paragraph. Sum up what you have said about the jobs, roles, and responsibilities of your new branch. Remember, you are explaining your new branch to your constituents.

#### Paragraph 4: Checks and balances

Topic sentence, how will the branch use checks and balances to create a new and improved government than we currently have?

Other sentences will include how your branch will check the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and how each of those branches will check your branch. Remember to be very specific and write at least three more sentences.

Sentence 1:

Sentence 2:

Sentence 3:

Concluding sentence for your paragraph. Sum up what you have said about checks and balances and your new branch.

#### Paragraph 5: Conclusion Summary of what you have said. Look at your intro to help you write your conclusion.

Topic sentence, what is your branch and its major job.

Other sentences will review membership, jobs, and checks and balances.

Sentence 1:

Sentence 2:

Sentence 3:

Concluding sentence for your paragraph. Sum up what you have said about how wonderful your new branch will make our government and remind your constituents that they should vote for you and a better government in the upcoming election.

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**Sample Student Work:**

The name of my new branch is called the Treasury Branch. It handles taxes and money. For the most part I'm just taking the Department of Treasury and making it bigger. Money is big part of society today and I think it is important that it is dealt with ethically and efficiently. This new branch will take some responsibilities from the Legislative Branch. One thing that the Legislative Branch is in charge of is coining money, but with the new Treasury Branch, The Legislative Branch will have one less job to maintain and can focus on the more important duties of the branch.

The Treasury branch is all about money, so for someone to be part of the Treasury Branch they need to be highly skilled in accounting and knowledgeable about taxes so they are efficient and effective with their job. The Treasury Branch has various jobs; there are the people who work with taxes and monthly/yearly payments. There are the people who discuss finances with citizens, and there are the people who work in the U.S. Mint and decide if a certain bill or coin should stop being made. To become a member of The Treasury Branch, you must go to college for math and finances for at least four years. You also must prove yourself worthy of this government job.

The work will be divided among the different sections of the branch, taxes and payments, finances, minting the currency. The taxes/payments and the finances will do most of the work because they are working with citizens. The people who work with taxes collect taxes, decide what percent a tax will be, how often it occurs, and what the tax will be on. The group that works with finances will take care of people and organizations who are having finance problems and need assistance paying their bills. The people who work with the currency, print it and figure out how much it cost to print a certain bill or make a certain coin. They also decide if a bill or a coin should stop being made due to how much it costs and how often it is used. To discontinue a bill or a coin the group will have to make a solid argument with the president for it to be approved.

The Treasury Branch will not have more power than the other branches because it only deals with money, for example, the Judicial Branch mainly interprets laws and decides if they violate the Constitution. You may think that the Treasury Branch will have more power because of all the money it has but its powers are limited. For example it can't make laws or put someone in jail, it can only make decisions about money. All the branches connect in some way. The Treasury Branch can't get rid of a bill or coin without approval from the President who is part of the Executive Branch. That alone limits its power. All decisions coming out of this branch must be Constitutional as interpreted by the Judicial Branch. The Treasury Branch will check other branches because if another branch need money they have to make a request to the Treasury Branch. This will help so that one branch does not overpower another with their duties.

In conclusion, the Treasury Branch will make the government better because of its organization and efficiency. The Treasury Branch handles taxes and payments, finances, and printing money. Those are the three sections of this branch. Members of this branch must be well educated in math and finances and understand how our economy works. The branch does not have too much power to overrule the other branches because it still needs to ask the President for approval for currency and taxation changes. The Treasury Branch can also give other branches money when needed, which is how it checks the other branches. This will make our government better

because it will add another layer of checks and balances regarding money. It also guarantees that finances and taxes will be taken more seriously and more accurately.