

The Constitution of the United States provides for a federal system of government in which power is shared between the states and the national government.

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes a federal form of government in which the national government is supreme.

The powers not given to the national government by the Constitution of the United States of America are reserved to the states or people.

Powers of the national government

Expressed powers are directly stated in the Constitution of the United States, such as the power to levy and collect taxes, make war, and regulate trade between the states.

Implied powers are reserved by the national government but not specifically listed. The source for implied powers is the elastic clause or "necessary and proper" clause (Article I, Sec. 8).

Inherent powers are those that the national government may exercise simply because it is the national government, such as establishment of diplomatic relations and regulation of immigration.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the federal system described in the Constitution of the United States of America by :

- a) explaining the relationship of the state governments to the national government, b) describing the extent to which power is shared, c) identifying the powers denied state and national governments, d) examining the ongoing debate that focuses on the balance of power between state and national governments.