

Separating power among the Legislative, executive, and judicial branches helps prevent any one branch from abusing its power. A system of checks and balances gives each of the three branches of government ways to limit the powers of the other branches.

Legislative powers over

The executive branch

Overrides vetoes

impeaches a President

The Judicial branch

Approves federal judges

Impeaches federal judges

Executive powers over

The legislative branch

Vetoes acts of Congress

Calls Congress into special session

The Judicial branch

Approves federal judges

Impeaches federal judges

Judicial powers over

The legislative branch

Declares laws unconstitutional

The executive branch

Declares executive acts unconstitutional

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the American constitutional government by
c) explaining the principle of separation of powers and the operation of checks and balances.