

Guidelines for 3 Branches Simile Project

For this project you will create a simile poster that completes this comparison: "The three branches of government under the Constitution are like a...." You will also design and create an illustration for your simile, complete with a brief written explanation of why the simile is accurate. Your group's simile must have the following features.

- 1. An accurate simile.** The major challenge of the group is to choose a simile you think most accurately completes the statement, "The three branches of government under the Constitution are like a...." You may choose from the following list of ideas, or come up with one of your own:
 - **A three ring circus**
 - **A football team**
 - **A musical band**
 - **A tricycle**
 - **A three part machine**
- 2. Use of proper materials.** One 24" x 28" piece of poster board, markers, crayons, or colored pencils; creative minds.
- 3. Title.** At the top of your poster you must have a title, written clearly and in large letters, that reads, "The three branches of government under the Constitution are like a _____."
- 4. Visual Image.** Create a central image for your simile. Your image should be bold and artistic. It can involve drawing, cut-out magazine pictures, or both. For each of the ten required items and five optional items, create a visual or part of a visual that represents each item. Be sure they are labeled and they fit in with the theme of the simile.
- 5. Labels.** Your simile must make direct comparisons between the three branches of government and the simile. In doing so, you must label on your simile the 10 required items listed below plus at least 5 of the others. They include:

Required: Constitution, The people, Executive branch, Legislative branch, Judicial branch, President, Congress, The Supreme Court, Checks and Balances, Separation of Powers

Choice of at least Five: Constitutional Convention, James Madison, Articles of Confederation, Great Compromise, George Washington, Shays' Rebellion, John Locke, Baron de Montesquieu, Thomas Hobbes, Iroquois Confederacy, Senate, House of Representatives

For example, if you chose the simile of a three-ring circus, you might label each of the three rings the legislative, executive, or judicial branch. Or, if you chose the simile of a football team, you might label the quarterback as the president.
- 6. Explanation.** Alongside or below your image, write the word "because" followed by a list of the three most important similarities between the thing you illustrated and the three branches of government.
- 7. Differences.** On the back of your poster, write the two most important ways in which the thing in your simile is different from the three branches of government.
- 8. Extras.** Your simile should be neat, colorful and creative.

Grading Rubric for Constitutional Simile Group Project

Title: clearly written, large letters, correct wording _____/1

Visual Image: illustrated with a relevant picture, it is neatly done with drawings or cut-put pictures. _____/3

Labels: pictures and items are labeled so comparisons can be made easily. _____/2

Required items: all 10 required items were included. _____/5

- Constitution _____
- the People _____
- Executive Branch _____
- Legislative Branch _____
- Judicial Branch _____
- President _____
- Congress _____
- Supreme Court _____
- Checks and Balances _____
- Separation of powers _____

Additional items: 5 of the additional items are included. _____/3

Explanation: On the poster you have included “because....” followed by the 3 most important similarities. _____/3

Differences: On the back of the poster you have written 2 of the most important differences. _____/2

Neat: Your poster is neat, creative and has purposeful color. _____/3

Class time: Class time was used well. You did not distract others, argue, or waste time. _____/3

Total group score: _____/25