

Federalism: National, State, and Local Powers

How does power flow through our federal system of government?

Speaking of Politics

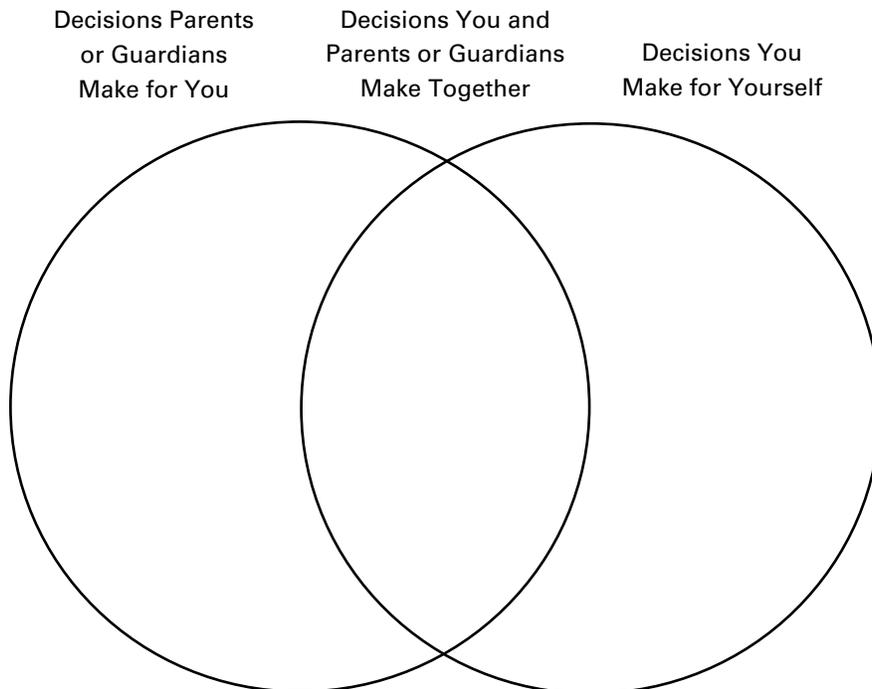
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| expressed powers | devolution |
| interstate commerce | apportionment |
| intrastate commerce | gerrymandering |
| unfunded mandate | redistricting |

PREVIEW

Copy the Venn diagram below into your notebook. List at least three decisions in each section, and then answer the questions.

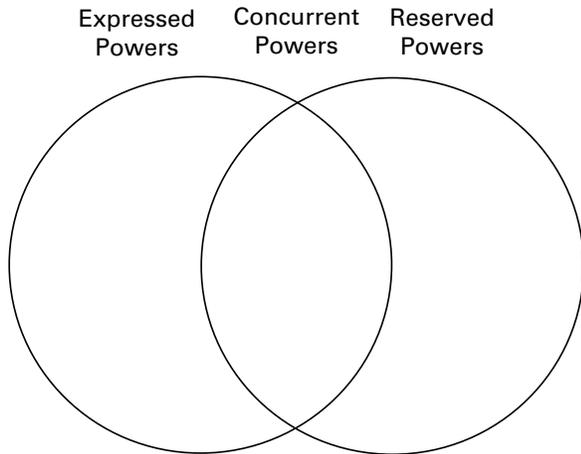
1. What types of decisions do your parents or guardians make for you? What types of decisions do you make for yourself? What types of decisions do you make together?
2. Why are some decisions shared while others are not?
3. What are the benefits of making decisions this way? What are the drawbacks?
4. How do you think this system of making decisions is similar to the way power flows between national and state governments?



READING NOTES

Section 2

Copy the Venn diagram below into your notebook. Provide a definition and at least two examples of powers for each part of the diagram. Then answer this question: *What are the benefits and drawbacks of a federal system?*



Section 3

Create a timeline in your notebook, and place each of these terms along it:

- Dual federalism
- Cooperative federalism
- Regulated federalism
- New federalism

For each term, include the approximate dates that this type of federalism existed and a simple illustration. Also briefly explain how national and state powers were defined during each period.

Section 4

Answer these questions:

1. What do state constitutions show about how power is distributed in our federal system?
2. Create an illustration that will help you remember important information about the three branches of state government. On your illustration, record notes about the role of state legislatures, state governors, and state court systems.

Section 5

Complete the table below in your notebook by briefly describing the organization and purpose of each local government system.

| Local Government System | How Is It Organized? | What Is Its Purpose? |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Counties, parishes, and boroughs | | |
| Mayor-council system | | |
| Commission system | | |
| Council-manager system | | |
| Special-purpose districts | | |

PROCESSING

Help people your age understand more about how they can use the federal system to address issues of importance to them. Choose an issue from the list below, or come up with your own idea. Then create a public service flyer that includes

- an eye-catching title and illustration.
- a brief explanation about which level or levels of government have the power to address this issue and why.
- the names and contact information—phone numbers, mailing addresses, Web sites, e-mail addresses—of two government officials or agencies where people can get more information about this issue.

Issues of Public Concern

- Lack of a recycling and conservation program in your area
- Too strict or too lenient high school graduation requirements
- Lack of adequate health insurance coverage
- Support or protest of a U.S. foreign policy