# Founding Principles for English Language Learners

**CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED**

The power of government comes from the people.

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**EL CONSENTIMIENTO DE LOS GOBERNADOS**

El poder del gobierno viene del pueblo.

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<th>Put this principle in your own words using Spanish:</th>
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**Challenge words**

- poder: __________
- gobierno: __________

**EXTENDING**

1. Why is it important that the government gets its power from the people?

2. Discuss the idea of consent of the governed with your family. What does it mean in their experience?

“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

—Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776
FEDERALISM

The people delegate certain powers to the national government, while the states retain other powers.

EL FEDERALISMO

El pueblo delega ciertos poderes al gobierno nacional, mientras los estados mantienen los poderes no delegados.

Put this principle in your own words using Spanish:

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Challenge words: soberanía, delegados

Put this principle in your own words using English:

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Challenge words: sovereignty, delegated

EXTENDING

1. What powers do only state governments hold?

2. What powers does only the national government hold?

“But as the plan of the convention aims only at a partial union or consolidation, the State governments would clearly retain all the rights of sovereignty which they before had, and which were not, by that act, EXCLUSIVELY delegated to the United States.”

–Alexander Hamilton: Federalist No. 32, 1788
INALIENABLE RIGHTS
Rights which belong to us by nature and can never be justly taken away.

DERECHOS INALIENABLES
Derechos inalienables son los derechos que nos pertenecen por naturaleza y nunca puede ser quitados con justicia.

Put this principle in your own words using Spanish:

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Put this principle in your own words using English:

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Challenge words
derechos:                    rights:
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propiedad:                        property:
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EXTENDING

1. List five inalienable rights.

2. How are these rights protected by the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights?

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

–Declaration of Independence, 1776
LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Citizens are best able to pursue happiness when government is confined to those powers which protect their life, liberty, and property.

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GOBIERNO LIMITADO

Los ciudadanos son los mejores capacitados para buscar su felicidad propia cuando el gobierno está limitado a esos poderes que protegen su vida, libertad y propiedad.

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Challenge words

limited: ______________________
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protegen: ______________________
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Challenge words

limited: ______________________
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Put this principle in your own words using Spanish: ______________________
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Put this principle in your own words using English: ______________________
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EXTENDING

1. Discuss with your family: How is government limited in the United States?

2. How is government not limited in other countries?

“Good constitutions are formed upon a comparison of the liberty of the individual with the strength of government: If the tone of either be too high, the other will be weakened too much. It is the happiest possible mode of conciliating these objects, to institute one branch peculiarly endowed with sensibility, another with knowledge and firmness. Through the opposition and mutual control of these bodies, the government will reach, in its regular operations, the perfect balance between liberty and power.”

–Alexander Hamilton: speech to the New York Ratifying Convention, 1788
1. Why is it important that the people are sovereign in the United States?

2. What role do representatives play in the government?

“The effect of [establishing a republic rather than a democracy] is, on the one hand, to refine and enlarge the public views, by passing them through the medium of a chosen body of citizens, whose wisdom may best discern the true interest of their country, and whose patriotism and love of justice will be least likely to sacrifice it to temporary or partial considerations. Under such a regulation, it may well happen that the public voice, pronounced by the representatives of the people, will be more consonant to the public good than if pronounced by the people themselves, convened for the purpose.”

–James Madison, Federalist #10, 1787
SEPARATION OF POWERS/CHECKS AND BALANCES

A system of distinct powers built into the Constitution, to prevent an accumulation of power in one branch.

SEPARACIÓN DE PODERES/ PESOS Y CONTRA PESOS

Separación de Poderes/Pesos y Contra Pesos está integrado en la Constitución para prevenir la acumulación de mucho poder en una sola rama del gobierno.

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Challenge words

integrado: integrated:

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acumulación: accumulation:

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EXTENDING

1. List three ways in which the branches of government are separate.

2. Discuss the checks and balances found in the Constitution with your family.

“The regular distribution of power into distinct departments; the introduction of legislative balances and checks; the institution of courts composed of judges holding their offices during good behavior; the representation of the people in the legislature by deputies of their own election... They are means, and powerful means, by which the excellences of republican government may be retained and its imperfections lessened or avoided.”

–Alexander Hamilton: Federalist No. 9, 1787