3. Answers will vary. Students could refer to three historical benchmarks that propelled the growth of the federal government:
   • the Civil War, 1861–1865 (The federal government emerged supreme over the states, and the Supreme Court began to apply the Bill of Rights to the states.)
   • the New Deal, 1933–1945 (The federal government took direct responsibility for the economic welfare of individual Americans.)
   • the Great Society, 1960s (The federal government greatly expanded its efforts to help the poor, sick, and elderly.)

4. Witherspoon encouraged his students to be thinkers who could consider a wide range of viewpoints and then use their intellects to choose the best options. The deliberations of the Continental Congresses and at the Constitution Convention reflected this rational approach to decision making.

5. Answers will vary.

Handout B—Vocabulary and Context Questions

1. Vocabulary
   a. religious group
   b. determine
   c. property owners
   d. leaving out
   e. church-related
   f. permanent
   g. harmful
   h. completely
   i. anticipated
   j. relating to clergy
   k. given up
   l. controversy
   m. unclear
   n. changes
   o. removal

2. Context
   a. The document was written in 1777.
   b. The document is about a provision in the Constitution of Georgia, but there is no indication that the document was written or published in Georgia.
   c. John Witherspoon wrote the document.
   d. It is a letter to the editor of a newspaper.
   e. Witherspoon’s purpose was to persuade those who were writing the Georgia state constitution to reconsider their prohibition on clergy serving in the legislature and to entertain his readers.
through his ironic commentary on this prohibition.

f. The audience for this document was the general public, the readers of the newspaper, and the authors of the Georgia state constitution (“some of the gentlemen who have made that an essential article of this constitution”).

Handout D—Discussion Questions
1. Witherspoon says that he is confused by the decision of the resolution in the Georgia Constitution that prohibits clergymen from serving in the state legislature.
2. Witherspoon believes that a person is a citizen before becoming a clergyman and therefore should, like all other citizens, have the right to serve in elected office. He asks the rhetorical question: “Is it a sin against the public to become a minister?” The implied answer is “no.”
3. He believes that the responsibilities of the clergy could prevent them from serving in the legislature. However, he also believes that the churches and the clergy—not the constitution—should make this decision.
4. The proposed constitution punishes members of the clergy by taking away their privilege to serve in the state legislature.
5. Witherspoon gives several possible definitions for “clergyman”:
   • one who has been ordained by a superior (“those who have derived the right by an uninterrupted succession from the apostles”)
   • one who has been ordained by another clergyman
   • one who is not ordained but “set a part [sic]” by members of the congregation
   • one who has spoken at a religious assembly
6. He wonders whether the clerical character is indelible; i.e., if a person is once a member of the clergy, are they always a member and so are always excluded from public office? Or could they be excluded at one point and then included later? He raises the following examples:
   • an ordained minister who performs no religious functions
   • a retired minister
   • an ordained minister who leaves the ministry for another profession
7. Witherspoon suggests several changes for the Georgia Constitution:
   • insert the reasons for the disqualification of clergy (which he has been unable to determine)
   • remove from the ministry those clergymen who are guilty of cursing, swearing, drunkenness, and uncleanness
   • allow such people to be elected to the Georgia Senate or House of Representatives and be treated with the same respect as other members of the legislature
8. No, Witherspoon does not want his suggestions taken seriously. He is offering an ironic commentary about prohibiting clergymen from serving in the legislature.