

# Checks & Balances

To prevent abuses of power, those who helped found our nation developed the system of checks and balances. You will develop a reasoned position on the effectiveness of this system in relation to one current or historical event.

## Your Task

In a cohesive paper or presentation, you will:

- State a claim that evaluates whether the system of checks and balances worked during the event by evaluating whether the system prevented one branch from exercising too much power.
- Provide background on the event by describing the event.
- Provide background for the claim by explaining how branches of government exercised constitutional powers during this event (include two or more examples).
- Provide reasons for your claim that include an explanation of how one branch checked or could have checked another (include two or more examples to support the position).
- Refer explicitly in the paper or presentation to three or more credible sources that provide relevant information:
  - Cite your sources when you draw information from them: for instance, when you summarize, paraphrase, or quote, and when you refer to facts, figures, and ideas.
  - Provide complete publication information for each source in your bibliography or list of works cited.

## Checks & Balances Rubric

Score	4	3	2	1
Claim	<p>I stated a claim that evaluates whether the system of checks and balances worked during the event:</p> <p>I evaluated whether one branch prevented another branch from exercising too much power, affecting the functioning of government.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>I addressed how this imbalance impacted the rights of citizens.</p>	<p>I stated a claim that evaluates whether the system of checks and balances worked during the event:</p> <p>I evaluated whether one branch prevented another branch from exercising too much power, affecting the functioning of government.</p>	<p>I stated a claim regarding how the branches of government functioned during the event, but did not evaluate whether one branch prevented another branch from exercising too much power.</p>	<p>I discussed the system of checks and balances without stating a claim.</p>
Civics Concepts	<p>I provided background on the event by describing it AND accurately explaining how branches of government exercised constitutional powers during this event. (Includes three or more examples.)</p>	<p>I provided background on the event by describing it AND accurately explaining how branches of government exercised constitutional powers during this event. (Includes two examples.)</p>	<p>I provided background on the event by describing it AND accurately explaining how a branch of government exercised constitutional powers during this event. (Includes one example.)</p>	<p>I provided background on the event by making a reference to branches of government, but did not accurately explain how the branches acted during this event.</p>
Evidence/Reasoning	<p>I provided reason(s) for the position, supported by evidence, which includes:</p> <p>An accurate explanation of how one branch checked or logically could have checked another.</p> <p>Three or more examples.</p>	<p>I provided reason(s) for the position, supported by evidence, which includes:</p> <p>An accurate explanation of how one branch checked or logically could have checked another.</p> <p>Two examples.</p>	<p>I provided reason(s) for the position, supported by evidence, which includes:</p> <p>An accurate explanation of how one branch checked or logically could have checked another.</p> <p>One example.</p>	<p>I provided reason(s) for the position, but no supporting evidence,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>I did not explain accurately how one branch checked or logically could have checked another.</p>
Sources	<p>I referred explicitly in the paper or presentation to four or more credible sources that provide relevant information</p>	<p>I referred explicitly in the paper or presentation to three credible sources that provide relevant information</p>	<p>I referred explicitly in the paper or presentation to two credible sources that provide relevant information</p>	<p>I referred explicitly in the paper or presentation to one credible source that provides relevant information</p>
Citations	<p>I cited sources properly within the paper, presentation, and bibliography using a specific format.</p>	<p>I cited sources adequately within the paper, presentation, and bibliography.</p>	<p>I cited sources minimally within the paper, presentation, and bibliography.</p>	<p>I cited sources incorrectly within the paper, presentation, and bibliography.</p>

**No Score (NS)** is given if the work is unintelligible, in a language other than English, off topic, off purpose, or copied.