Government Notes

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Legislative Branch** | **Executive**  **Branch** | **Judicial**  **Branch** |
| **Main purpose** | Writes the laws | Enforces the law | Interprets the law |
| **National (Federal)**  **Head of Branch** | Congress  -Senate (2)  -House of Representatives (population) | President of the United States | Supreme Court |
| **State Head**  **Of Branch** | State Legislature | Governor | State Supreme Court |
| **Duties** | -Writes bills  -Can vote bills into laws  - Can override veto with 2/3 vote  -Sets budget  -Can declare war  -Must be re-elected every 2-6 yrs  -Elected by the people  -Represent the people and their opinions | -Signs/vetoes laws  - Makes sure that laws are carried out  - Commander-in-Chief  -Can pardon crimes  -President of the U.S.  -Must be elected  every 4 yrs.  -Must be native-  born American  citizen  -Can only serve 3  terms | -Court system  -Miranda Rights  -Right to remain  silent  -Right to an attorney  (lawyer)  -Right to a speedy  trial  -Has final word on ALL U.S. laws  -Decides what the law says and if it agrees with the constitution  -Supreme Court  -Appointed by the  President  -Serve life term  -Can vote to impeach  the President |

Rights vs. Responsibilities

Right: What you are entitled to *because* you are a citizen of the United States.

Ex: right to bear arms, right to vote (age 18), freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure (as in to take), freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, etc.

Responsibility: What you *should do* because you are a citizen of the United States

Ex: pay taxes, vote for good leaders, live peaceably, tolerance, jury duty

Because we have the right to bear arms, we have the responsibility to live peaceably.