

BUILDING A BRANCH DOSSIER

Separation of powers refers to the Constitution's system of distributing political power between three branches of government: a legislative branch (Congress), an executive branch (led by a single president), and a judicial branch (headed by a single Supreme Court). In this activity, you will explore each branch in more detail.

Work with your group to build a dossier on your assigned branch and present your findings to the class.

Examples of what goes into the dossier:

1. **Title:** What is the name of the branch?
2. **Role:** What is the primary role and/or responsibility of the branch in our constitutional system?
3. **Structure:** How is the branch structured? Where do we find the branch's structure set out in the Constitution?
4. **Power:** What part of the Constitution defines the powers of the branch?
5. **Background:** Write a short paragraph on the historical origins of the branch. What did the Founding generation have in mind?
6. **Key moments:** List the major turning points and/or Supreme Court cases about the branch.
7. **Other information:** Share any other vital information about the branch and how it works.