| **SEPARATION OF POWERS, CHECKS AND BALANCES, AND FEDERALISM** |
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Complete the chart below to examine the principles of the separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism, you will engage with key principles that continue to drive our constitutional system today.



| **Definition**The separation of powers refers to the fact that the Constitution distributes 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). |  | **Characteristic** |
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| **Example** |  | **Non-Example** |



| **Definition**The Constitution sets up a system of checks and balances—granting each branch of government the power to check abuses by the other branches. |  | **Characteristic** |
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|  |  |  |
| **Example** |  | **Non-Example** |



| **Definition**Federalism is the word used to describe the Constitution’s system of dividing political power between the national government and the states. |  | **Characteristic** |
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| **Example** |  | **Non-Example** |