| **PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING ON SEPARATION OF POWERS** |
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In this activity, you will use primary sources to identify the philosophical background for separation of powers and checks and balances.

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Read and take notes on the excerpts from the primary source readings:

* [Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)](https://constitutioncenter.org/education/classroom-resource-library/classroom/6.5-primary-source-montesquieu-the-spirit-of-the-laws)
* [John Adams, *Thoughts on Government* (1776)](https://constitutioncenter.org/education/classroom-resource-library/classroom/6.5-primary-source-john-adams-thoughts-on-government-1776)
* [James Madison, *Federalist* No. 51 (1788)](https://constitutioncenter.org/education/classroom-resource-library/classroom/6.5-primary-source-james-madison-federalist-no-51-1788)

After you have completed the readings, answer the following questions:

| What are two main arguments the authors make?  |
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| What is the role of the governed?  |
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| Do you see these ideas in our government today? |
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