

## Social Studies Performance Task 12-1

### Standard(s):

- **SS8a - Power, Authority, and Governance:** Compare and contrast governments at all levels (e.g. Constitutional development, checks and balances, political parties)

### The Task

The United Nations has decided to colonize the moon using a democratic form of government. A government will be formed to organize and manage the new colony. You will be a representative to the new colony's Constitutional Convention. Based on your study of United States democracy and democratic documents, create and defend a written constitution for the colony using the following agenda:

- In preparation for the convention, you will meet in small caucus groups of three to five members to design a constitution for the new colonial government. A written constitution should include but not be limited to a preamble, government structure, the delineation and limitation of powers, and individual rights.
- Each caucus will present their proposed constitution to the entire convention.
- The convention will debate the merits of each group's proposal.
- The entire Constitutional Convention will either unanimously adopt one of the constitutions or will reach a compromise to design a constitutional document that everyone can accept unanimously.

### Circumstances of Performance:

The student work is produced under the following conditions:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> alone                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in a group               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in class         | <input type="checkbox"/> as homework                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> with teacher feedback       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with peer feedback       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> timed                       | <input type="checkbox"/> extended project                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no opportunity for revision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> opportunity for revision |

### Criteria for Success:

- Includes descriptions in constitution that may contain but not be limited to descriptions that determine the power structure and separate branches of the government, the limitations of government positions, and the rights of individuals, groups, and institutions.
- Includes provisions for a defense and methods of adapting and amending the constitution.
- Provides concrete examples based on facts.
- Evaluates and uses appropriate primary sources.
- Includes the democratic ideals and principles of democracy in the product.

- Uses written Standard English, grammar, and mechanics and, when appropriate, formal conventions of public speaking.

**Related Standard(s):**

- **SS1a – Citizenship:** Evaluate the degree to which public policy and citizen behaviors exemplify the stated ideals of democratic government.
- **SS1c – Citizenship:** Define and demonstrate the attributes, rights, and responsibilities of a democratic citizen to include voting procedures and the election process.
- **SS8c– Power, Authority, and Governance:** Investigate the concept and development of basic human rights (e.g., universal human rights, civil rights, basic US rights as outlined in the Bill of Rights).
- **SS8d – Power, Authority, and Governance:** Assess the roles and responsibilities of elected officials