

The Importance of Checks and Balances

In the United States there are three branches of government. They are the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. Each branch has a certain job and the other branches have special powers to watch over it. These are called checks and balances, and they make the branches equal so that one doesn't become too powerful. Some countries don't have this, so the president can do whatever they want and make laws even if they are not good laws. That's why checks and balances are important. I'll tell you about the three branches of our government and how checks and balances work.

The legislative branch makes laws. But they can't just make any old law because the other two branches have checks and balances. The president who is in the executive branch can veto those laws if he thinks they are not good laws.

The judicial branch can call a law unconstitutional. The judicial branch interprets the laws and decides if people are following them. But the other two branches have some powers over the judicial branch. The president nominates judges. The legislative branch has to approve the judges. They can also impeach the judges if they are not treating everyone fairly.

The president can declare executive orders which are laws he made himself, but the judicial branch can declare them unconstitutional if they are not fair. The president can veto a law, but the legislative branch can override the veto which means it will still become a law. The legislative branch can also impeach the president and remove him from office.

I think we are very lucky to have checks and balances that way all the parts of our government are equal. I am very happy that the constitution set our government up this way!

-Lindsay Garber