# Federalism: Local, State, National, and Tribal Authority

First & Last Name: _____ Date: _____

**CENTRAL QUESTION**

How should responsibility be divided when a public problem crosses boundaries?

### Learning objective

Analyze four source sets, evaluate evidence and limitations, and defend a civic judgment through interdisciplinary inquiry.

### Demonstration of learning

Complete the daily evidence tasks, earn a score on 15 multiple choice items, and write a source based RACE response using the 19 point rubric.

### Standards and task alignment

NJSLS Social Studies: 6.1.8.CivicsPI.3.b; 6.3.8.CivicsPR.2. Applied in daily analysis and the final civic judgment. NJSLS ELA (2023): RI.CR.6.1 (evidence), RI.CI.6.2 (central ideas), W.AW.6.1 (argument), SL.PE.6.1 (discussion). National CCSS: RH.6-8.1, RH.6-8.2, RH.6-8.7; WHST.6-8.1 and WHST.6-8.9. NJSLS / CCSS Math: 6.RP.A.3 (ratios and percent); Science, technology, arts, history, and civic participation are integrated through the named tasks; no additional science or arts code is claimed.

### Five lesson sequence

Days 1 to 4: read, annotate, analyze, collaborate, and write. Day 5: 15 question assessment and extended RACE response. Each lesson is designed for 40 minutes; teacher notes provide timing and supports.

### Academic vocabulary

federalism: constitutional division of national and state power; delegated power: power assigned to national institutions; reserved power: power retained by states or people; concurrent power: shared power; jurisdiction: legal area of authority; sovereignty: authority to govern

### Source integrity

Readings are original Ma’at instructional syntheses. Exact historical excerpts are marked. Classroom datasets and scenarios are labeled; they are not historical records or actual government budgets. Source references appear on page 13.

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DAY 1

## Source A | Dividing authority

**Do Now**

Which government would you first contact about a damaged neighborhood street, and what would you still need to verify?

[1] Federalism divides authority between national and state governments. Article I grants Congress powers such as regulating commerce among states and coining money. The Tenth Amendment states that powers not delegated to the United States, and not prohibited to the states, are reserved to states or the people. Some powers, including taxation, may be exercised by both levels within legal limits.

[2] Local governments usually receive their authority through state constitutions and laws. A mayor is not a smaller president, and a city council is not a chamber of Congress. Local structures and responsibilities vary. Identifying a government level does not mean assuming every locality uses the same organization.

[3] A useful analysis asks: what problem exists, which government has authority, and which institution can act within that authority? For example, a local road repair may involve local administration, state rules, and national funding. Shared participation does not erase the legal source of each actor’s power. Federalism can create cooperation as well as conflict. Primary excerpt, Tenth Amendment: 'The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.'

Annotation task: underline a central claim; box one civic term; mark one detail as evidence; add a question where evidence or authority needs clarification.

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