

## **American Government – “I Can” Statements**

- I can analyze the relationship between power and authority.
- I can describe the purpose and role of government.
- I can explain how political behavior is a natural function of society.
- I can evaluate differing assumptions held by people across time and place regarding power and authority.
- I can analyze the origins and development of governments over time and classify various political systems.
- I can analyze the advantages and disadvantages of various political systems and compare the ways in which power is distributed in systems of shared power.
- I can compare and contrast constitutional democracies with authoritarian regimes; presidential and parliamentary governments; and federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.
- I can classify and evaluate various economic systems and identify the role of government in each.
  - I can evaluate the historical ideas and political philosophies that shaped the development of the U.S. government.
- I can summarize key political principles expressed in the foundational documents of the United States.
- I can examine the debates and events that led to the writing and ratification of the Constitution.
- I can analyze the ideas expressed in the Constitution from the perspective of a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.
  - I can examine the fundamental governing principles on which the Constitution is based and how those principles are embodied in the document.
- I can analyze how the Constitution establishes a limited government in which powers are distributed among different levels and branches.
- I can summarize how the various elements of the Constitution exemplify efforts by the framers to divide power.
- I can propose and defend amendments to the Constitution.
- I can examine the Bill of Rights and Supreme Court decisions and explain the

evolution of the first 10 amendments.

- I can discuss the meaning and significance of each right secured by the Bill of Rights.
- I can debate landmark Supreme Court cases to explore what happens when rights conflict.
- I can evaluate a current situation involving a conflict of rights to determine what they believe is constitutional and fair.
- I can identify the benefits and drawbacks of the federal system.
- I can analyze historical and current challenges to defining national and state powers.
- I can summarize the roles and responsibilities of national, state, and local governments.
- I can demonstrate how to use the federal system to create change in a public issue.
- I can analyze methods of bringing about political change or maintaining the status quo.
- I can identify forms of civic participation.
- I can develop a plan to address a local, national, or international problem.
- I can analyze the roots of political parties and the role parties play in the political process and public policy development.
- I can identify the organization of political parties, including third parties, and Evaluate how participation in parties affects the government.
- I can analyze the platforms of political candidates and parties.
- I can evaluate the significance of interest groups in terms of their goals, methods, and influence on government and public policy.
- I can analyze the role of the media in shaping public opinion.
- I can evaluate the extent to which the media act as a free press.
- I can analyze the influence of media coverage, political advertising, and public opinion polls on local, state, and national elections.
- I can identify persuasive techniques and their application in U.S. campaigns.
- I can write position statements about the influence of political advertising on voters.

- I can identify ways in which voting rights in the United States have expanded over time and identify the current qualifications for voting.
- I can analyze the process for nominating candidates at all levels of government.
- I can plan for and participate in a debate of current political issues.
- I can identify how elections are funded and how funding is regulated.
- I can analyze party identification and voter behavior in the United States.
- I can analyze the formal and informal qualifications for members of Congress.
- I can identify the enumerated powers of the legislative branch and the checks provided by the Constitution to that branch on the other branches of government.
- I can compare the organization of the legislative branch at the national and state levels.
- I can analyze graphs, tables, diagrams, and political cartoons to understand the responsibilities and challenges of being a legislator
- I can explain the formal process of how a bill travels through Congress, including the role of committees.
- I can identify other factors that influence the lawmaking process.
- I can practice their persuasive speech and debate skills.
- I can compare the formal and informal qualifications of national, state, and local chief executives.
- I can identify the responsibilities and roles of the modern president and the ways in which presidential power has increased over time.
- I can explain the organization and functions of the executive branch.
- I can describe the role and impact of government bureaucracies.
- I can evaluate the current president based on performance in various presidential roles.
- I can examine the historical and modern roles of the president and the executive branch in the budget process.
- I can analyze the responsibilities and budgets of selected departments in the federal bureaucracy.

- I can compare the ways in which the national, state, and local governments raise revenue and make expenditures.
- I can defend a position on how well the federal government budgets and spends tax dollars.
- I can identify the organization and jurisdiction of federal, state, and local courts and the interrelationships among the various types of courts.
- I can determine the role that judges play in the court system and describe the way they are appointed.
- I can explain the structure, function, and process of the Supreme Court.
- I can state and support an opinion on how effective the U.S. judicial system is in ensuring justice for all.
- I can identify the constitutional rights of individuals in the criminal justice system.
- I can describe what happens during each stage of the criminal justice process.
- I can explain how an individual's due process rights uphold the principles of limited government and judicial review.
- I can analyze whether a defendant was afforded due process in the criminal justice system.
- I can identify and give examples of U.S. foreign policy goals.
- I can identify the tools used to carry out U.S. foreign policy.
- I can describe the powers that the U.S. Constitution gives the president and Congress in the area of foreign affairs.
- I can analyze U.S. involvement in a current foreign policy event as reported in a news article.
- I can identify the purposes and functions of various types of international organizations.
- I can contrast the strengths and limitations of international organizations.
- I can debate a global issue from the perspective of a specific country.
- I can evaluate the goals and work of an international organization.