County

A division of local government. There are 83 counties in Michigan.

An Idea

Any citizen can present an idea for a local law to the city council.

The Three Branches of Local Government in the State of Michigan
Village: A community of people with a smaller population

Township: A division of a county with varying governmental power

City: A community of people with a larger population
**City Hall**
The place where a city’s leaders work to enforce local laws or ordinances.

**City Council Meetings**
The place where the city council makes the laws.

**Police & Fire Chiefs**
They enforce local laws with the help of city directors and inspectors.
Jury
A group of citizens chosen to interpret laws and deliver verdicts

Judge
A person elected to interpret laws and deliver verdicts

Court System
The place where the judicial branch interprets the laws
City Manager

The hired or appointed leader of local government

Mayor

The elected leader of local government

City Council

The elected officials that make local laws
Legislative: The branch of government that makes the laws

Executive: The branch of government that enforces the laws

Judicial: The branch of government that interprets the laws
The _______ Branches of _______ Government in the State of ____________

The Legislative Branch of government ________ the laws.
- City Council—
- City Council Meetings—
- An idea—

The Executive Branch of government ________ the laws.
- City Manager—
- Mayor—
- City Hall—
- Police/Fire Chiefs—

The Judicial Branch of government ________ the laws.
- Judge—
- Jury—
- Court System—

Who's Got the Power dl 2—student
The Three Branches of Local Government in the State of Michigan

The Legislative Branch of government makes the laws.
- City Council—Elected officials that make laws.
- City Council Meetings—The place where the city council make the laws.
- An idea—Any citizen can present an idea for a local law to the city council.

The Executive Branch of government enforces the laws.
- City Manager—The hired or appointed leader of local government.
- Mayor—The elected leader of local government.
- City Hall—The place where the city manager/mayor works to enforce the laws.
- Police/Fire Chiefs—They enforce the laws with the help of local directors and inspectors.

The Judicial Branch of government interprets the laws.
- Judge—A person elected to interpret laws and deliver verdicts.
- Jury—A group of citizens chosen to interpret laws and deliver verdicts.
- Court System—The place where the judicial branch interprets laws.

Who’s Got the Power dl 2—teacher
**Legislative Questions:**

How many members are on your city/village council? ____________

True or False—The city/village council is an elected office.

Name four jobs of the city council:

1 ____________________________
2 ____________________________
3 ____________________________
4 ____________________________

When are city council meetings held? ____________________________

Where are city council meetings held? ____________________________

Who are the current city council members? ______________________

____________________________________________________________________

7. How many years are the terms of office? _________________________

**Executive Questions:**

Who is the mayor of your city/village? ____________________________

True or False—The mayor is an elected position.

Name two jobs of the mayor:

1 ____________________________
2 ____________________________

Who is your city/village manager? ________________________________

Name three jobs of city/village manager:

1 ____________________________
2 ____________________________
3 ____________________________
### Who’s Got the Power?
Comparing the Legislative and Executive Branches of Local Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>Executive</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Who’s Got the Power dl 4
Elementary
Position/Opinion Paragraph ~ Persuasive Writing

Student: ________________________     Date: __________________________

Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position Statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position/opinion is clearly stated at least three times throughout the paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position/opinion is clearly stated twice throughout the paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position/opinion is clearly stated once in the paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position/opinion is not clearly stated in the paragraph.</td>
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<td>Supporting Information</td>
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<td>At least three pieces of evidence support the position/opinion.</td>
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<td>Two pieces of evidence support the position/opinion.</td>
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<td>One piece of evidence supports the position/opinion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>No evidence supports the position/opinion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>The paragraph is clearly organized as an opinion piece.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The paper is somewhat organized as an opinion piece.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This is generally not an organized opinion paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It is not clear at any point in the paragraph that it is an opinion piece.</td>
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<td>Tone Of Letter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tone is persuasive and clear throughout the paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tone is persuasive, but not clear throughout the paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tone is not persuasive or clear.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tone is inappropriate for this piece.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punctuation, Capitalization &amp; Grammar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punctuation, capitalization and grammar are correct.</td>
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<tr>
<td>There are one or two errors in punctuation, capitalization and/or grammar.</td>
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<td>There are three or four errors in punctuation, capitalization and/or grammar.</td>
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<td>There are five or more errors in punctuation, capitalization and/or grammar.</td>
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</table>

Overall Score: _______/20    Percent: ___________%

Comments:

Who’s Got the Power dl 5
After logging onto your computer, click on Internet Explorer. You can find the blue “e” for explorer in the bottom left-hand corner of your screen. Now type in this website address exactly as it is here: http://bensguide.gpo.gov/. Click on “3-5” on the kite. When you get to the next screen click on “Branches of Government” and then label this diagram.

Fill in the blanks based on your reading of this first page.

In 1787, our F____________ F____________ (also called “Framers”) gathered in Philadelphia to write the C________________. They didn’t want any one person or group to have too much power. They decided to separate this power into three groups...into three branches. They are the L________________, the E______________, and the J______________ branches of government. The S______________ of P______________ is another name for the three branches of government. (10 pts)
Scroll down & click on Legislative Branch. Fill in the blanks.

The Legislative branch is made up of Congress and Governmental Agencies.

The two houses of Congress are: H___________ of R___________ & The S___________. Congress has the power to M__________ L__________.

Click “back” & then click on Executive Branch. Fill in the blanks.

The Executive branch makes sure that L__________ are O__________.

The P____________ of the United States is in charge of this branch. He gets help from the V________ P______________, D______________ H______________, and I______________ A______________ because this is a very big job.

Click “back” & then click on Judicial Branch. Fill in the blanks.

The judicial branch of government is made up of the C______________ S______________. The S______________ C______________ is the highest court in the land. The courts decide the M______________ of the L__________, how they should be A______________, and whether they break the R______________ of the C_______________.

If you could work for one branch of government, what would it be and why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________ (15 pts)
| Scenario #1 — A police officer pulls over a red sports car. When he approaches the driver, he asks to see his license and registration. After checking out the driver’s information in his police cruiser, the white officer returns and tickets the driver. The officer doesn’t ticket the driver for speeding or running a stop sign, but instead tickets him for driving a red car.  
What branch of government issued the ticket?  
What branch of government will decide whether or not the ticket is fair?  
What would happen if there weren’t checks and balances in this situation? |
| Scenario #2 — A student goes to city hall to see the city manager. He asks the city manager to change a nearby parking lot into a basketball court. The city manager says, “Great idea! Kids will love it. Let’s start fixing up the concrete tomorrow.”  
What branch of government decided that the basketball court could be made?  
What branch of government is supposed to make such decisions/laws?  
What would happen if there weren’t checks and balances in this situation? |
| Scenario #3 — The city council of Rockwood voted that everyone must worship at the Church of Rockwood on Sundays. Some of its citizens were upset and decided to sue the city for taking away their rights as United States’ citizens.  
What branch of government made the Church of Rockwood law?  
What branch of government will decide if the law is constitutional?  
What would happen if there weren’t checks and balances in this situation? |
| Scenario #4 — A local judge sentenced a woman to life in prison for littering at a local park. The judge told the woman that the park is a favorite of his kids and that she must pay the price for not putting her trash in the appropriate container.  
What branch of government sentenced the woman?  
What branch of government will decide if the sentence is fair?  
What would happen if there weren’t checks and balances in this situation? |
Who’s Got the Power?
Reflective Journal Entry

Student Name: _____________________ Date: ______________

A. In your own words, what are the three branches of government and what do they do?
   1. ___________________________________
   2. ___________________________________
   3. ___________________________________

B. Why do you think governmental power is divided into three branches?
   ___________________________________
   ___________________________________
   ___________________________________

C. What do you think would happen if one person or group had the power of all three branches of government?
   ___________________________________
   ___________________________________
   ___________________________________