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Guided Reading Activity

Federalism

Lesson 4 Differing Views About Federalism

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I. Federalism and Public Policy

A. A course of action that the government settles on is called ______

_____, and state and localities often serve as the proving ground for new policies.

B. A ______ law is a provision that sets an automatic end date for that law. This

forces lawmakers to review the law before continuing it.

- C. A ______ law prohibits public officials from holding official meetings that are ______ to the public.
- D. At times, the national government imposes policies on states to protect citizens' basic rights. An example of this is the 1964 ______
- E. Supreme Court decisions have expanded the constitutional power of the national government to regulate _______. The Court has done so by interpreting the term _______ to mean almost any activity connected with producing, buying, selling, and transporting goods across state lines.

II. Federalism and Political Parties

- A. The system of _______ helps to lessen the risk that one political party will control politics at all levels of government.
- B. There are two different views of how federalism should work. The ______

_____ position is generally favored by conservatives and holds that local

government, being closer to the people, better reflects the needs of citizens.

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C. Liberals tend to favor a ______ position, believing that a strong national

government is better equipped to solve major social and economic problems facing the nation.

III. Federalism and Political Participation

A. The American system of ______ provides opportunities at all levels for American

citizens to influence public policy.

B. Citizens can influence public policy by running for office, lobbying state government, voting on state

and local issues, and working with ______ groups to

influence policies at all government levels.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How does federalism allow national, state, and local governments to affect one another? Give examples.