

Federalism Project: Researching Your Issue

Research your issue to find evidence to develop a position on whether the state or the federal government should have power to legislate on the topic you chose. Make note of the sources you consult on the back of this paper or on an additional sheet.

Your paper & presentation should discuss:

- Context/Background information on your issue (*you should have a quick 30 second summary of the history and debate that surrounds your topic*)
- Arguments in favor of the federal government
- Arguments in favor of the state government
- Constitutional justification for your claim (clauses, articles, powers, amendments, etc.)

Answer the following questions as you research your issue:

1. What is the central debate with your issue?
2. What current events or historical details are important to know in regards to your issue?
3. What is the **state's perspective** (1-2 paragraphs) on this issue?
4. What is the **federal government's** (1-2 paragraphs) perspective on this issue?
5. Does the Constitution support State or Federal Power for your issue?
 - a. Which expressed, concurrent, or reserved powers apply to your issue? Explain.
 - b. Are there any amendments that relate to your issue? Explain.
 - c. Does the Commerce Clause, Supremacy Clause, or Elastic Clause apply to your issue? Explain.
6. What Supreme Court decisions have discussed your issue, and what was their decision?