



Who Holds the Power?

Examine the following segments of the Constitution. Use the Annotation Station strategies to better understand its meaning. Work as a team to restate the constitutional statement in your own words and determine whether it designates power to the state or federal government.

Annotation Station

- Circle words you don't know, and take a moment to find the definition.
- Highlight in **YELLOW** phrases that confuse you. Use context clues to figure out their meaning.
- Highlight in **RED** any references to the powers of the federal government.
- Highlight in **GREEN** any references to the powers of the state government.
- ☆ Star the phrase or line that you find most important.

Exhibit A

Article VI

Clause 2: This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Constitution of the United States

Background: This segment of the Constitution is commonly referred to as the supremacy clause. It establishes that the federal Constitution and federal law generally take precedence over state laws and state constitutions.

What does this mean? Rephrase the clause in your own words.

Does this give power to the STATE or FEDERAL government? Explain.

We think the Framers included this clause in the Constitution because:



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Exhibit B

10th 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.

The Constitution of the United States

Background: The 10th Amendment was ratified on December 15, 1791. It provides that any powers that are not specifically given to the federal government, nor withheld from the states, are reserved to those respective states, or to the people at large.

What does this mean? Rephrase the amendment in your own words.

Does this give power to the STATE or FEDERAL government? Explain.

We think the Framers included this amendment in the Constitution because: