

Bill of Rights

The first 10
Amendments to the
Constitution.

checks and balances

Each of the three branches of government have equal power and each can check or keep the other branches from becoming too powerful.

common good

Working together for the good of all and making laws that are good for everyone.

diversity

Accepting differences in language, dress, food, where parents or grandparents born, race and religion.

equality

Everyone has the same rights regardless of differences like race, religion, where parents or grandparents born, how much money they have.

federalism

Shared power between the national (federal) government and the states.

justice

All people treated fairly under the law, even if they are accused of committing a crime. The accused have the right to a lawyer, a speedy trial, bail, a jury trial, and the punishment must fit the crime.

liberty

People have the right to their own religious beliefs, choose your own friends, have your own opinions and say them in public, assemble in a group, petition the government.

life

Each person has the right to the protection of his or her life.

patriotism

A love or devotion to our country and the core democratic values shown by our words and deeds.

popular sovereignty	The power of the government comes from the people. The majority of votes rules.
pursuit of happiness	To find happiness in your own way, without stepping on the rights of others.
rule of law	Both the government and the people must obey the law and the laws must be good and fair.
seperation of powers	Splitting the power between 3 branches: Legislative, Executive, & Judicial. A system that keeps any person or group from gaining too much power.
truth	To be trustworthy and honest