

Exploring Government Project Ideas

For more information on Notgrass homeschool curriculum,
call 1-800-211-8793 or visit notgrass.com.

Unit 1 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - What characteristics should a leader in government possess? Give Biblical examples and cite verses to support your ideas.
 - Lesson 4 discusses Bible passages on leadership. Explain the meaning of one of these passages. Give examples of how that passage applies to real or hypothetical situations.
2. Create a photo slideshow creatively illustrating the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).
3. Memorize Romans 13:1-7.

Unit 2 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Do all people have the right to be free? In his “City on a Hill” sermon, John Winthrop said, “God almighty in His most holy and wise providence, hath so disposed of the condition of mankind, as in all times some must be rich, some poor, some high and eminent in power and dignity; others mean and in submission.” On the other hand, one of the motivations stated by President George W. Bush for the war on terror was what he called the God-given right of every person to enjoy personal and political freedom. Is this freedom a Biblical right or is it drawn from popular modern thinking?
 - Describe the government you would establish if you were starting a country.
2. Make a poster illustrating and explaining the basic elements of the forms of government explained on pages 32-33.
3. Make a short video (one to five minutes) that creatively explains the forms of government explained on pages 32-33.

Unit 3 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - If you were present in 1776, how do you think you would feel about the American colonies declaring independence from Great Britain?
 - What do you think are the strengths of the United States Constitution and our system of government?
2. Use calligraphy or other elaborate lettering to write out the Preamble to the United States Constitution on a large piece of poster board. Embellish with other art forms if you wish.
3. Create a bust sculpture of one of the founding fathers out of clay. You can find images of some of these men in this unit.

Unit 4 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Imagine that you are serving in the United States House of Representatives. Compose a persuasive speech to deliver to your colleagues on a cause about which you are passionate.
 - Do you believe that elected positions should have term limits? Give examples of the limits you believe should apply to various offices and give reasons for your opinions.
2. Watch at least one hour of C-SPAN programming with one or both of your parents and discuss what you learned.
3. Choose one of your relatives that you think would make a good congressman or congresswoman. Design a campaign brochure for him or her, including photos, views on issues, and campaign promises.

Unit 5 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Devise a bill that you would like to see passed by Congress. Clearly outline the benefits and respond to possible objections.
 - Do you feel that any of the powers of Congress are inappropriate and should be handled by another branch or level of government (see Lesson 23)?
2. Watch the film *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. (Parents, be aware that this movie does include people drinking alcohol.)
3. Write and illustrate a book for children of at least 20 pages that explains how a bill becomes a law. You can illustrate the book with paintings, drawings, collage, photographs, or a combination.

Unit 6 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Who is the president you most admire? Why do you admire him? In what ways do you think that he served his country well?
 - Would you like to be president someday? Explain why or why not. If so, write about some of the goals you would have as president.
2. Make a mini-documentary (three to five minutes) that tells the life story of one of our presidents.
3. Research to discover one of a president's favorite recipes or a menu served at a White House function and prepare it for your family.

Unit 7 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - What functions of the modern bureaucracy seem superfluous, inappropriate, or unconstitutional to you? Explain your position.
 - Do you think the Selective Service System should be ended? If Selective Service continues to require registration, do you think young women should be required to register at age 18 (see pages 212-213)?
2. Make a three-dimensional model of a real natural feature or scene in one of America's national parks.
3. Create a challenging crossword puzzle using all of the acronyms in this unit (FBI, DOD, NOAA, etc.). Use the information in the lessons to provide clues to fill in the crossword (but not too easy!). Ask one of your parents or another adult to complete it.

Unit 8 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Should a president nominate someone for the U. S. Supreme Court during the president's last year in office? If he does, should the Senate consider the nomination? Supporters say that the president has the right to do this and that the work of the Court is too important not to have all the seats filled for a year or more. Opponents say that the next president should make the nomination and that the Senate's advice and consent role legitimately includes the decision not to consider a nominee. Should the same rule apply to other federal judgeships and other presidential appointments?
 - Write a short story involving a criminal trial. Use details that you learn in this unit to make your story realistic.
2. Create a detailed architectural plan for the interior of a federal courthouse. Give special attention to the arrangement of the courtroom. Also make a drawing of the exterior.
3. Create a painting entitled *Justice*, interpreting the subject as you wish and in the medium of your choice.

Unit 9 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - In 2016 the FBI asked Apple to help them unlock a cell phone that a terrorist shooter owned so that investigators could find out whom the shooter had contacted. Apple refused to do so, saying that information was privileged and that it might lead to compromises of personal privacy. Should a cell phone company comply with such a request by law enforcement officials? Should the government be able to force a company to help with an investigation? Is the potential knowledge to be gained worth the loss of personal freedom and privacy?
 - Displaying some objects is offensive to some people. For example, most disapprove of displaying the Nazi flag except in a museum. Others disapprove of displaying the Confederate flag or other Confederate memorabilia. Does free speech include the right to display items that some people consider offensive? Explain your reasoning.
2. Design a full-page magazine advertisement either supporting or opposing one of the amendments to our Constitution discussed in this unit.
3. Write and perform a skit that creatively explains the amendments in the Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10). Recruit siblings or friends to perform with you.

Unit 10 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Compared to other states, what are some of the benefits and drawbacks of living in your state?
 - Research and write the history of the state capitol building in your state capital.
2. Create a tourism brochure for your state. Feature key attractions with important information for visitors. Include several photos and at least one map.
3. Research to discover one of your state's quintessential meals and prepare it for your family.

Unit 11 Project Ideas

1. Choose one of these writing assignments:
 - Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper expressing your opinion regarding a local issue or addressing something that you think needs to change in your community. Send it to the newspaper.
 - Choose one of the photographs in this unit. Use that as the inspiration for a short story about government.
2. Make a commercial about one minute long for the town or city where you live. Choose whether the commercial will aim at encouraging tourists, new residents, or new businesses to come to your town.
3. With a parent's involvement, arrange a field trip to your county courthouse or city hall. Call first to ask if a tour is available and, if possible, meet some of your local officials, and have someone take your photo with them.

Unit 12 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - What solution would you propose to the problem of deficit spending and our resulting national debt?
 - Do you think our system of taxation is fair and workable? Why or why not? What would you change if you could?
2. Write and illustrate a book for children of at least 20 pages explaining taxes and what government does with the money on a local, state, and federal level. You can illustrate the book with paintings, drawings, collage, photographs, or a combination.
3. Research to find out the proportions of government spending for your state, county, or city (choose one). Use cardboard, foam, or paper to create a colorful pie graph (such as the one shown on page 363) that matches the government spending.

Unit 13 Project Ideas

1. Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Do you think the United States should participate in United Nations resolutions that call for military action against countries? If the U.S. does participate, should American troops be subject to UN command, or should American commanders lead American troops? Explain your reasoning.
 - How should the U.S. engage with other countries whose governments commit human rights abuses or perform other actions of which Americans disapprove? What are the pros and cons of diplomatic recognition, international trade, and other forms of engagement with these countries?
2. Create a poster urging action against human trafficking.
3. Memorize Isaiah 2:1-4.

Unit 14 Project Ideas

1. Write on one of the following topics:
 - Who should be responsible for paying for health care? Do you think the government at any level should pay for health care for citizens? Should there be restrictions on who can receive free health care? Write 300 to 500 words answering these questions.
 - Write a poem with at least 24 lines that celebrates the lives of unborn children.
2. With your family, take a tour of a pregnancy center in your area that encourages and supports mothers to choose life. Find out ways your family can support their organization.
3. Interview a first- or second-generation immigrant. Prepare at least seven questions ahead of time and try to keep the conversation within one hour to respect your interviewee's time. Use video or audio to record the interview.

Unit 15 Project Ideas

1. Choose one of these writing assignments:
 - Profile a historical or contemporary government leader whom you respect and explain why (300 to 500 words).
 - Write a letter to your parent(s) expressing your appreciation for your homeschool experience.
2. Research how electricity is generated and delivered to your community. Make a poster or a slide show illustrating this process. Use it to make a presentation to your family.
3. Create a work of art entitled *America*, interpreting the subject as you wish in the medium of your choice.