

THAT'S OUR JOB!

The writers of the U.S. Constitution wanted to create a strong national government. But they also wanted to make sure that one person or group did not have *too much* power. That's why they created three branches of government: the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary.

Read about the jobs and powers of the three branches of government. Then answer the questions.



Congress (the Legislative branch) makes new laws. Other powers include collecting and spending money from taxes and declaring war.



The **President** (the Executive branch) signs and enforces laws. Other powers include serving as the head of our armed forces and making treaties with other nations. (The Senate must approve all treaties.)



The **Supreme Court** (the Judiciary branch) decides if the laws agree with the U.S. Constitution.

SITUATION: Let's say U.S. high school students want to lower the voting age to 16. They write to the President and Congress asking for a new law.

1. Which branch of government would write the new law? _____
2. Which branch would decide if the law is in keeping with the U.S. Constitution?

3. Which branch would sign the law? _____

BONUS: On the back of this page, write a short paragraph telling how the U. S. Supreme Court is taking part in Election 2000.