

## FUNCTIONS OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

### Performance Standard 14B.D

Illustrate and summarize the functions of the three branches of government accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: Identify and define the functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
- *Reasoning*: Analyze the similarities and differences of the functions of each branch of government.
- *Communication*: Produce a Venn diagram that is well-organized and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

### Procedures

1. *In order to understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States, and other nations (14B)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following skills:
  - Summarize the function of the three branches of government found within the state and federal government.
  - Identify the functions that are similar or different for the three branches of government.

Note: Have students use a standard textbook, cloze study guides, handouts, or electronic media to read about the functions of the three branches of government. Students need to be familiar with the use of Venn diagrams.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Ask each student to complete a three-circle Venn diagram on the functions of the three branches of government as follows:
  - Show the similarities and differences between and among the three branches of government. The outside section of each circle should be used to describe the functions unique to a branch of government. The overlap between two branches should be used to describe the functions common to both branches. The overlap in the middle of the three circles should be used to describe the functions common to all three branches.
4. (Optional) Have each student explain the functions of one branch and tell what its principal responsibilities are in relationship to the others.
5. Evaluate each student's work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
  - *Knowledge*: The description of the functions of the three branches of government was complete and correct.
  - *Reasoning*: The analysis of the similarities and differences between and among the three branches was thorough and accurate.
  - *Communication*: The Venn diagram was well-focused, well-organized, and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

### Examples of Student Work follow

### Time Requirements

- Three to four class periods

### Resources

- Textbook
- Computer and/or Internet access
- 12 x 18 white construction paper
- PC Eagle/Video and textbook materials
- "Cloze" study guide
- Social Science Rubric

"Meets"

