
Tribal Constitution Analysis Worksheet

Directions: Analyze the tribal constitution assigned to your group by answering the questions below in a separate document. Include the questions or prompts in your answers and use complete sentences. Note that each tribe's constitution is unique and that not all constitutions will use the same language or be structured in the exact format listed below.

Preamble

A preamble introduces the constitution, stating its purpose, outlining its goals, and reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Summarize the preamble in two or three sentences.

Articles

Constitutions outline the framework and powers of a government in several articles or sections. There are separate articles for each branch of government that spell out their structure and provide rules and responsibilities for officials in each branch.

Authority

What does the constitution claim authority or jurisdiction over?

What does the constitution define as the tribe's territory?

Membership

What are the qualifications for membership in the tribe?

What are the rights of members?

Legislative

How is the legislative power (i.e., tribal council) structured?

What are the qualifications for office?

How are tribal council members selected?

What are the duties and terms of service of council members?

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Executive

How is the executive power structured?

What are the qualifications for the office of the executive (i.e., president, chairperson)?

How are tribal executives selected?

What are the duties and terms of service of executives?

Judicial

How is the judicial power structured?

What are the qualifications of the tribal judge(s)?

How is/are the judge(s) selected?

What are the duties and terms of service of the judge(s)?

Bill of Rights

A bill of rights lists the rights and liberties of a citizen of a tribe.

If the constitution you are examining includes a bill of rights, list the rights afforded to tribal members, as stated.

Additional Articles

Many tribes address other issues in their constitutions. These may include elections; education or economic development; and fishing, hunting, and gathering rights.

Briefly summarize any additional articles you find in the constitution you are examining.

Other Items of Note

When was the constitution adopted?

Has it been revised or amended since it was first adopted?

The growing movement to restore native food sources

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