

## Discussion: Features of the Constitution

How strong and powerful do you think your government should be? What kinds of problems can occur if government is too weak? What kinds of problems will emerge if government is too strong? These questions were very important to the individuals who founded the United States government. The framers of the U.S. Constitution wanted a government strong enough to defend the country and advance the economy, but not so strong as to destroy the liberty of individuals. For this reason, the Constitution included a number of features designed to limit the abuse of power by government. In this Discussion, you will identify one way the Constitution tries to protect citizens from the abuse of power by government and why it is still important to have these safeguards today.

### The Assignment:

1. Write a One page paper: Description of one feature of the Constitution designed to protect individuals from the abuse of power by government and how this feature is still relevant in current American society.
2. Be sure to cite at least one reference from the Learning Resources to support your answer.
3. Be sure to support your ideas by connecting the analysis of the stories to the week's Learning Resources, or something you have read, heard, seen, or experienced.

### Answer

One feature of the constitution designed to protect individuals from the abuse of power by government is amendment 8. "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted", (about.com). For example, a prosecutor wants a 10 year old to get the death penalty for killing his mother. I considered this to be cruel and unusual punishment because of the child age. While I do strongly believe in the death penalty but there is no way a child should have that type of punishment. I do believe that this amendment is still relevant today by protecting people when it comes to our society today.

References:

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### Answer