

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3rd EDITION

Instructor's Guide

Chapter 8

Class Discussion

1. What are the main powers given to the states by the federal government?
2. Why do you think the federal government prefers to provide grants to states, rather than local governments?
3. Briefly explain the powers granted to our federal government?
4. Briefly explain the powers granted to our state governments?
5. Why do the powers of local governments vary from state to state?
6. Can you think of any items that you purchase that have both federal and state taxes applied to them? (gasoline, diesel fuel) .
7. Name the three primary types of federal grants?
8. Highlight and describe the differences between these federal grant programs?
9. How has "federalism" changed over the years?
10. Is "federalism" different now than a decade ago?

Class Assignments (Teams can be assigned and compete against one another)

1. What types of federal grants does your state received from the federal government?
2. Find out if your school district receives any federal grant funds? If so, which ones?
3. Find out if your city or town receives any federal grant funds? If so, which ones?
4. Find out if your school district receives any state grant funds? If so, which ones?
5. Find out if your city or town receives any state grant funds? If so, which ones?
6. Name the last two states that were added to the United States of America? Debate whether Puerto Rico should become the 51st state.
7. Why do you think special districts are the fastest growing form of local government?
8. Are there any special districts that provided public service in your community? (sewer, water, trash disposal)

Field Trips-Other Ideas

- Check with your elected or appointed officials, and ask them if your local government officials ever meet with their elected state representative. If so, what did they discuss?
- Check with your school elected or appointed officials, and ask them if your school officials ever meet with their elected state representatives. Is so, what did they discuss?
- Invite a federal representative or his/her staff person and ask them to talk about the federal government's role in local government.