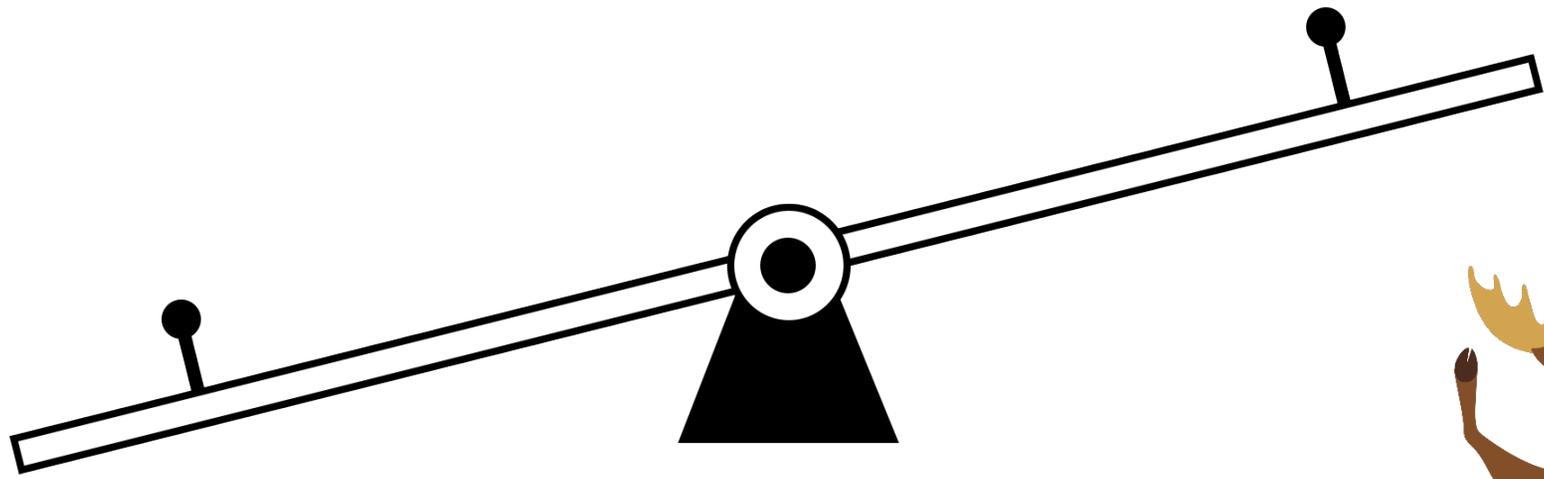


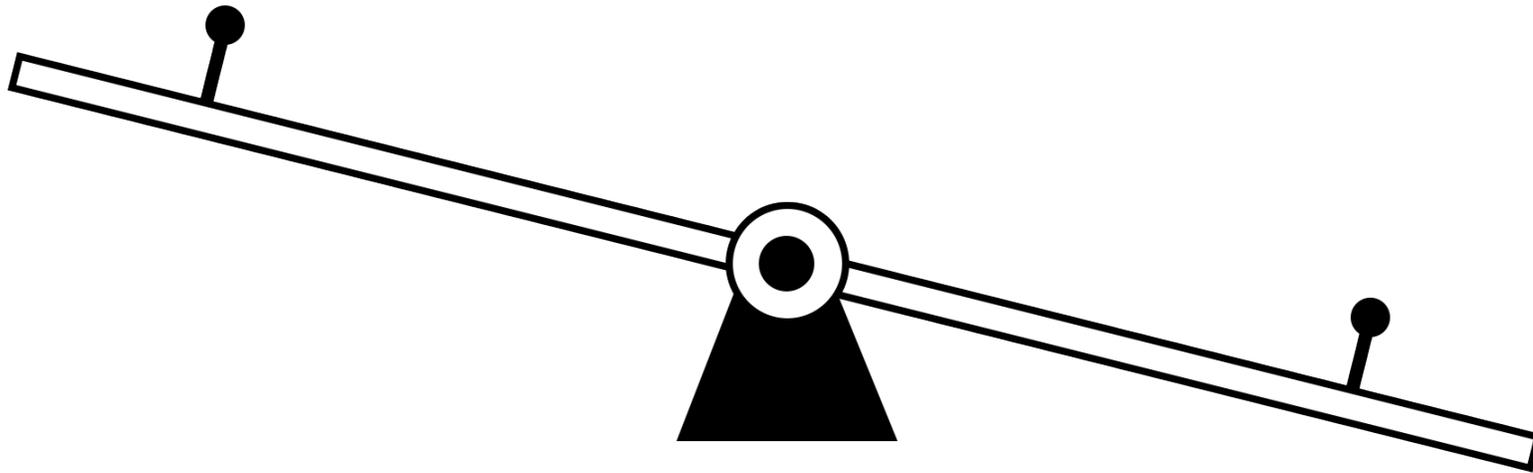


Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment



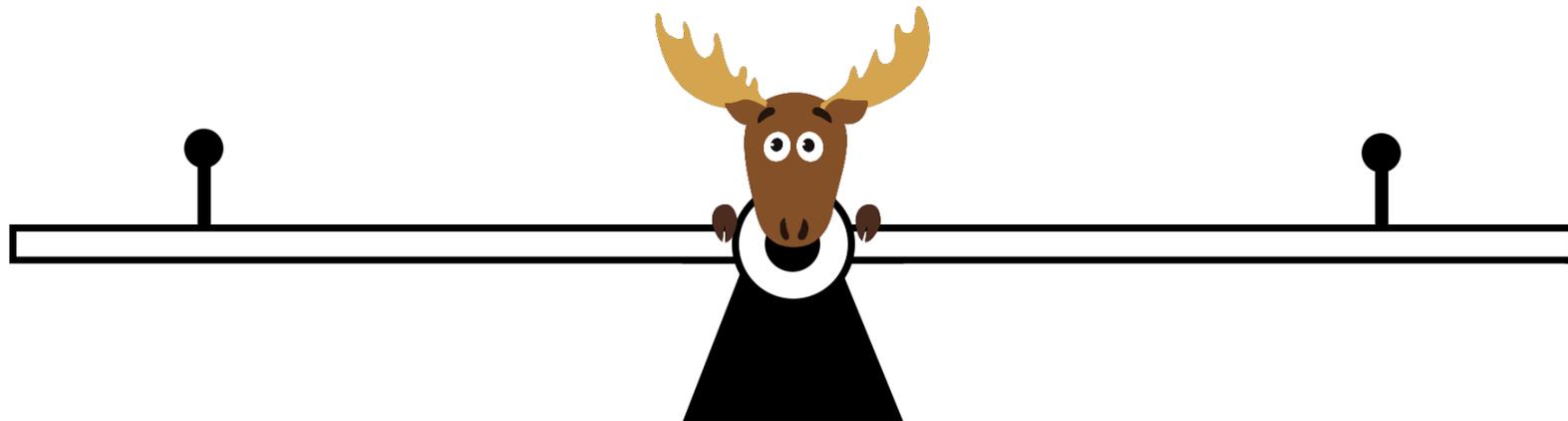


Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment





Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment





**What is meant by a “balance of power”?**

It is when power is shared evenly in a situation or between groups so that one Group cannot control or impose its will on another. The two Groups are evenly matched; neither is stronger than the other.

**Why is a balance of power important in the United States today?**

Democracy is built on people working together. The sections of government must work together to govern the country. No section of government can make decisions alone and carry out only what they want. To get anything done, the different parts of the government have to work together because the power of the government is divided. This ensures we have a strong democracy.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Balance of Power Writing Assessment

What will you balance? Balancing all kinds of power is very important in our democracy. In this summative assessment, you will write about one kind of balance of power and why it is important in government today.

You will:

- Choose your balance of power in our government today
- Complete graphics and questions to help draft your writing
- Write a rough draft of your essay
- Consider, conference with, edit, and all around ponder the rough draft
- Write a final draft of your essay

Now, first, which balance of power are you interested in writing about. Choose one.

What power are you balancing?	Group A	Group B	Group C
<b>Federalism:</b> <b>Separation of power into different levels of government</b>	A: Federal government	B: State government	C: Local government
<b>Separation of power among branches of the federal government</b>	A: Legislative branch	B: Executive branch	C: Judicial branch



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Rubric for Balance of Power Essay

	<b>Above Standard (4)</b>	<b>At Standard (3)</b>	<b>Approaching Standard (2)</b>	<b>Below Standard (1)</b>	<b>Self</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	Clearly introduces the topic and explains focus of essay	Introduces the topic and explains focus of essay	Partially introduces the topic and says focus of essay	Misses introducing the topic and does not clearly say focus of essay		
<b>Body Paragraph(s)</b>	Includes specific examples showing unbalanced power and explains them	Includes examples showing unbalanced power and partially explains them	Does not include enough examples of unbalanced power, needs more explanation	Does not provide enough examples or does not explain them		
<b>Conclusion</b>	Connects specific balance of power to government today and democracy clearly	Connects specific balance of power to government today and democracy	Partially connects specific balance of power to government today and democracy	Does not connect specific balance of power to government today and democracy		
<b>Clarity and Creativity</b>	All writing is clear, persuasive, and creatively expresses ideas	Writing is mostly clear, persuasive, and somewhat creative in expression	Writing is not very clear or creative and is only partially persuasive	Writing is not clear, persuasive, or creative in expression		
<b>Effort and Time</b>	Effort is obvious. Essay is completed on time and has no spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.	Effort is present. Project is completed on time and has few spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.	Some effort is present, but more is needed. Project might be late and have spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.	The product does not show significant effort. Project is late and contains spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.		
<b>Comments:</b>					<b>Total of 20 points:</b>	



Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

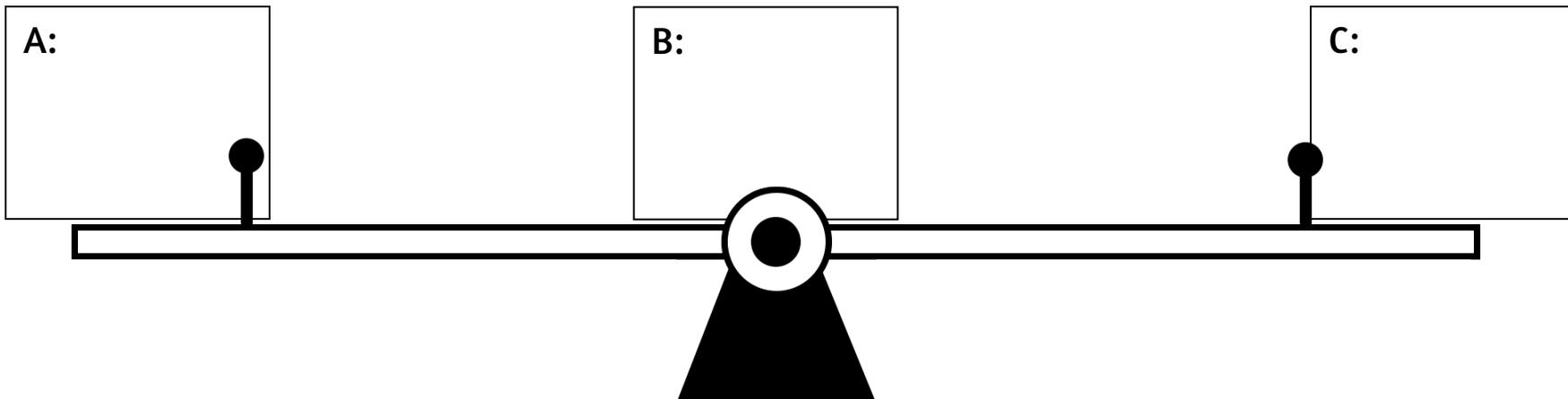
**Graphic  
Packet**

1. What does it mean to say a "balance of power"?

2. Why is a balance of power important in government today (big idea)?

3. What topic are you balancing? \_\_\_\_\_ Define it: \_\_\_\_\_

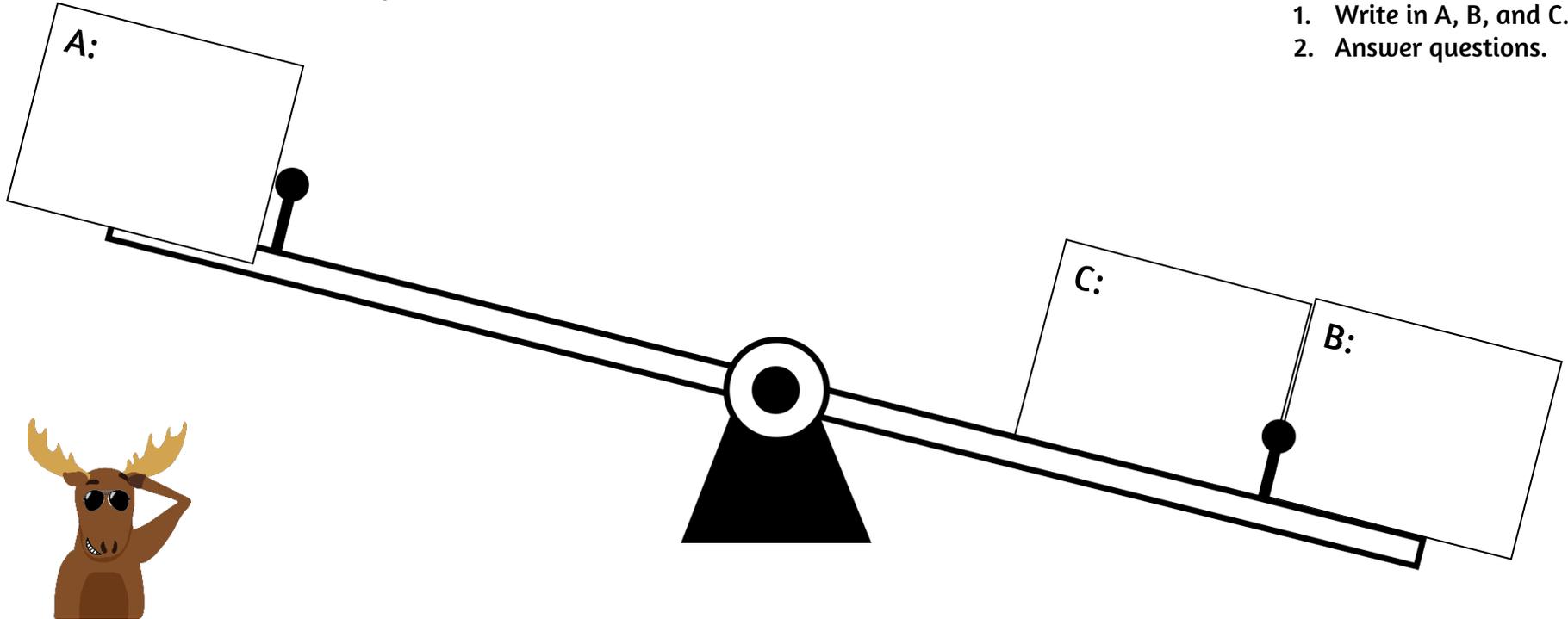
4. What is A? Write it in. What is B? Write it in. What is C? Write it in.





Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

1. Write in A, B, and C.
2. Answer questions.



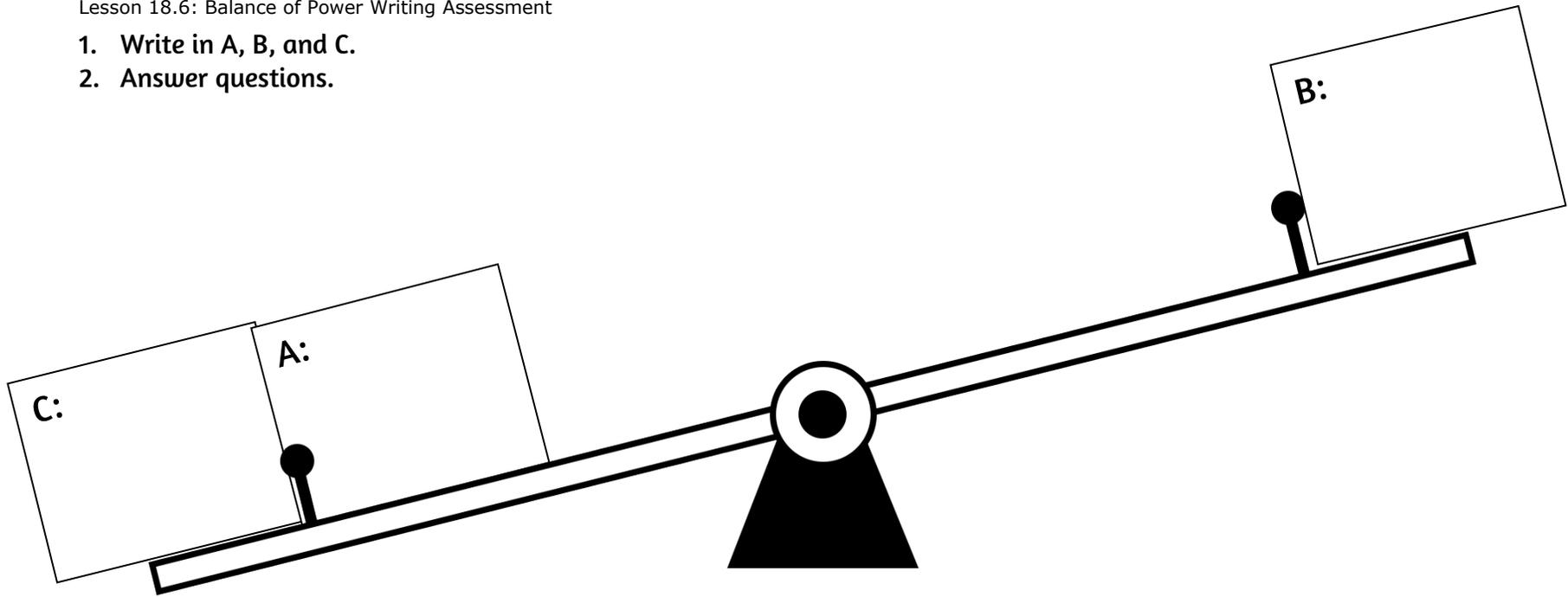
What happens in the government when A is up and has all the power and B and C are down? Is this a problem? Why?

What specifics or examples can you imagine of this? What might happen?



Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

1. Write in A, B, and C.
2. Answer questions.



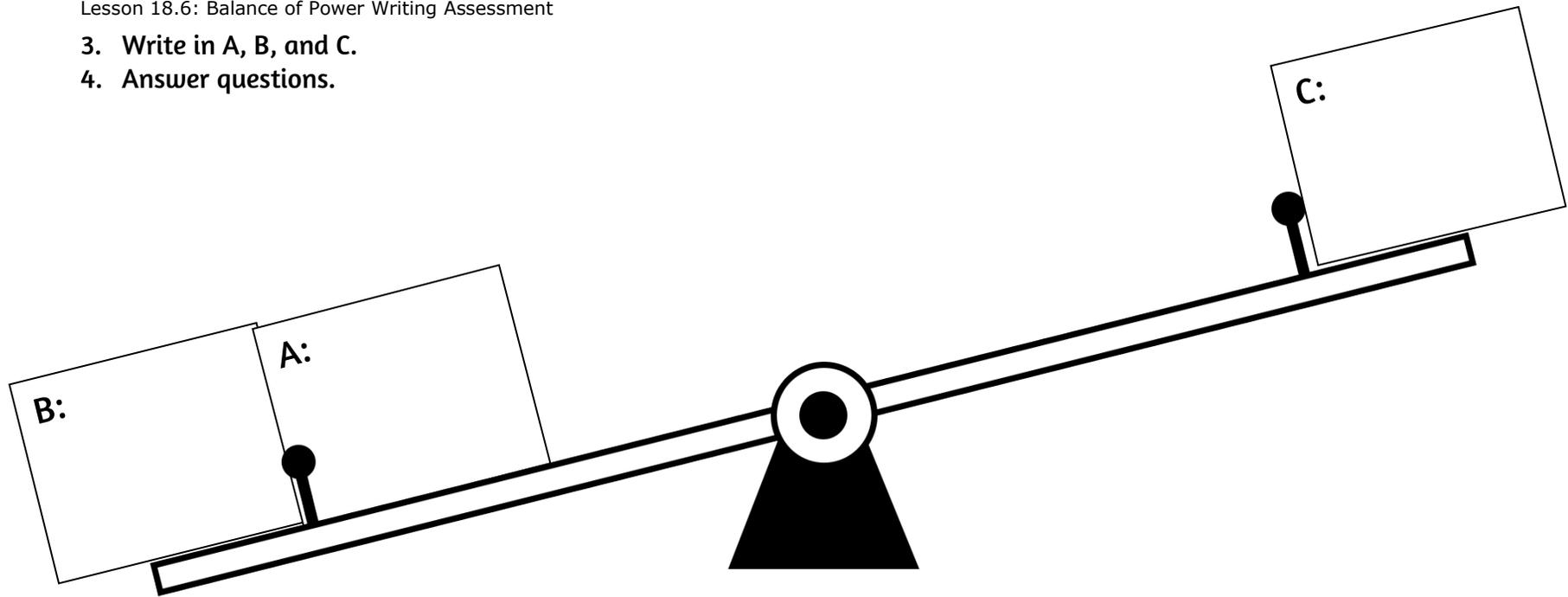
What happens in the government when B is up and has all the power and A and C are down? Is this a problem? Why?

What specifics or examples can you imagine of this? What might happen?



Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

3. Write in A, B, and C.
4. Answer questions.



What happens in the government when C is up and has all the power and A and B are down? Is this a problem? Why?

What specifics or examples can you imagine of this? What might happen?

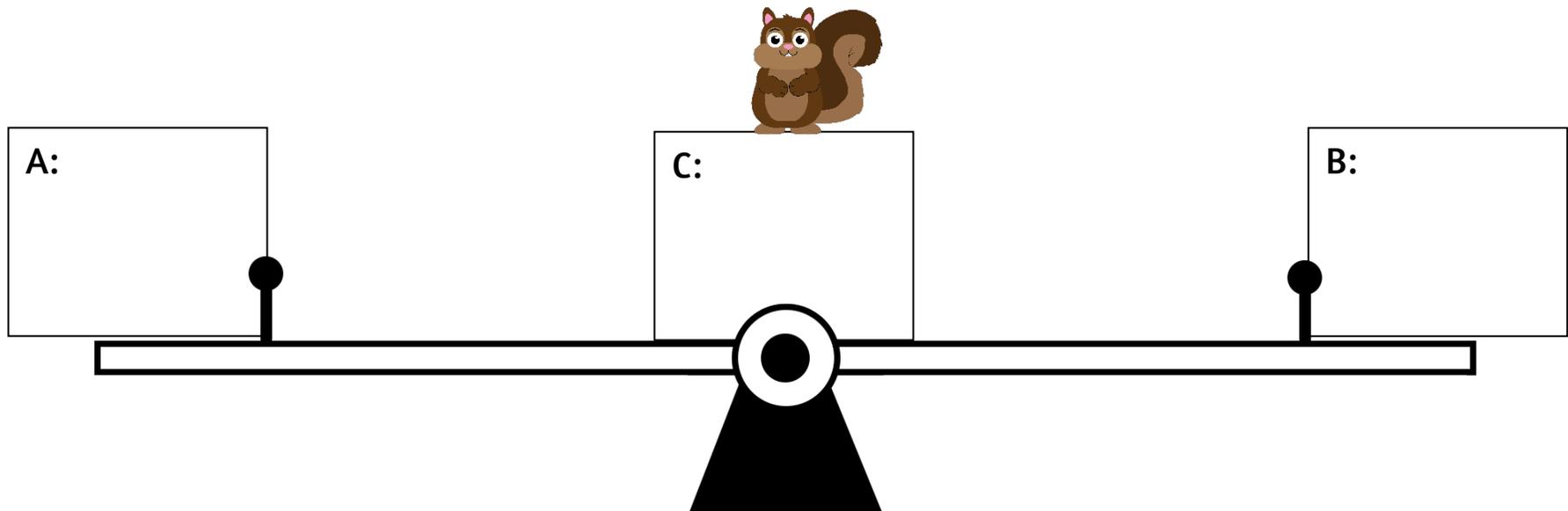


Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

1. Write in A, B, and C.
2. Answer questions.

What happens when the power is balanced?

Why is this important in our government today?





## Answer Key: Possible responses

What are you balancing?	What if A is up and B is down? Examples?	What if A is down and B is up? Examples?	Why is this balance important in the country?
<p><b>1. Federalism</b></p> <p>A: Federal government</p> <p>B: State government</p> <p>C: Local government</p>	<p>If A is up, the federal government would be making too many policies/choices for people. Because they are the one government for the whole country, they would make the same choices for people in NH and people in AZ or CA, who have different needs. All government would be "one size fits all."</p> <p>If B is up, states would have too much power. The federal government would not unify the country and control currency and the military. The local governments would not be able to do what was best for their citizens, because the states would make one choice for everyone in their borders.</p> <p>If C is up, there would be too much local control. People would have the power, but no support from state or federal governments. Towns would be like their own countries, and different towns would have different rules and laws.</p>		<p>It's important because we need all three levels of government working to support and protect the people. Each level of government has powers and responsibilities to the people upon which our democracy relies.</p> <p>Lessons 18.3 "Federalism and the Separation of Powers" and 18.8 "How Do Taxes Work."</p> <p>Lessons 18.4 "New Hampshire State Legislature" and 18.5 "Local Government" if desired.</p>



Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

<b>What are you balancing?</b>	<b>What if A is up and B is down? Examples?</b>	<b>What if A is down and B is up? Examples?</b>	<b>Why is this balance important in the country?</b>
<p><b>2. Separation of power</b></p> <p>A: Legislative branch</p> <p>B: Executive branch</p> <p>C: Judicial branch</p>	<p>If A is up, the lawmaking body of the United States would have too much power. Congress would make many laws and set policies in place that might not be best for the nation as a whole because no one is checking their power. There would be no one to tell Congress they are making a law too harsh or too easy. Plus, if Congress with more than 500 people had all the power, no one would make quicker decisions about the military or relations with other countries.</p> <p>If B was up, the president and their offices would have too much power. One person would be making choices and decisions for the whole nation, which is too much like a dictator. They would get to make any programs they wanted and have their departments make them happen. No one would say their decisions were unconstitutional or make sure they thought about all the different states.</p> <p>If C was up, the judicial branch would have too much power. They could choose whatever laws they didn't like and say they weren't legal. They could revisit older laws and say that they weren't legal or reverse ones that were called illegal and make them legal. There wouldn't be any balancing powers creating laws and enacting them.</p>		<p>It's important because the different branches regulate different aspects of the government and lawmaking. We need all three branches to keep our democracy strong.</p> <p>Lesson plans: 18.3 "Federalism and the Separation of Power."</p> <p>Lesson 18.4 "New Hampshire State Legislature" if desired.</p>









Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

**Editing and making a final draft: Now, you are very close to a final draft of your essay!**

1. Final drafts are usually typed, so now is a good time to do that if you can.
2. Reread your essay. Add in linking words to make it flow.
3. Read your essay out loud to a peer or to yourself. Does it make sense? What can you make better?
4. Read it one more time. Check spelling, grammar, punctuation.
5. Ask your teacher how to turn it in! Do you include your drafts and graphics or just the final draft?

**Great job! You are part of making a stronger democracy!**



Lesson 18.6: Balance of Power Writing Assessment

