

## Analysis Questions for a Venn Diagram

### A COMPARISON OF POWERS BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

I always talk about my success sequence: Draw/Talk/Write. This means that students work with a visual of some sort, talk about the visual, and then write about it. In this case, the visual is a Venn diagram and I want students to talk about the visual through structured questions. The purpose of the questions is to help ensure that students really study and think about the information on the Venn diagram and to help them compare and contrast – which is the purpose of using a Venn diagram.

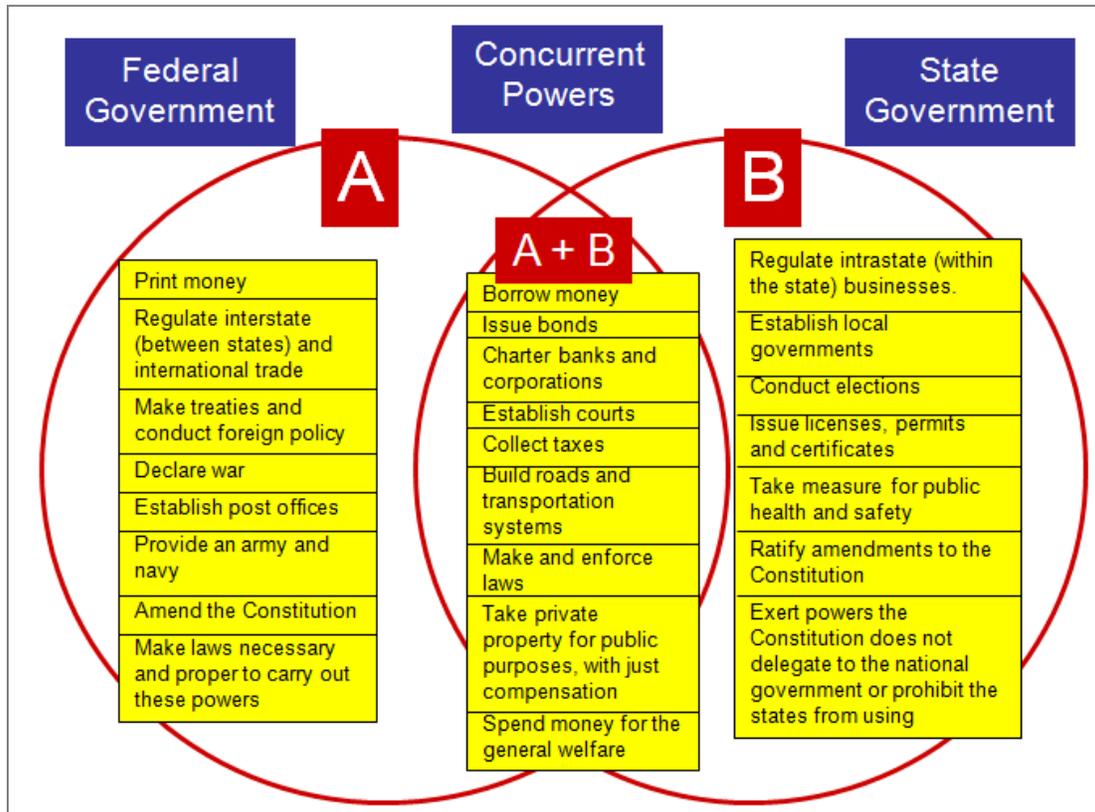
The following Venn diagram shows the comparison of powers between the federal and state governments. After students complete a Venn diagram, it is important to make sure they **think about the information** in the diagram – and for this, I like using analysis questions. It's a good idea to have questions planned out ahead of time.

**PARTNER UP!** Assign each student with a partner. One partner will be partner A and the other be partner B. Ask preplanned questions in a structured way. Ask the first question on the list. Have partner A answer the question for partner B. Then ask the second question on the list. Have partner B answer the question for partner A. Keep asking questions in the same pattern until you've asked all of the questions you want.

When writing the questions I use, I like to start with basic questions such as the title of the diagram. I do this to help remind students that they've got to look at that sort of information anytime they review a piece of visual information. I then add as many questions as I can think of and I write questions for different cognitive levels – from lower levels of thinking to higher levels of thinking. (I've put twenty five questions here, but don't be shy about adding your own.)

The Venn diagram is not only a great learning tool, but it's also a terrific review tool. Have students visit it more than once during the school year.

# A COMPARISON OF POWERS BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS



1. What is the title of this graphic?
2. What type of graphic is this?
3. What is the purpose of this type of graphic?
4. What does this Venn diagram show?
5. What is the total number of examples listed on this Venn diagram?
6. Why do the circles in a Venn diagram overlap?
7. What does it mean for a power to be a Federal power?
8. What does it mean for a power to be a state power?
9. What does the word, *concurrent*, mean?
10. What is an example of a concurrent power?
11. What are the examples of Federal powers?
12. What are the examples of state powers?
13. What are the examples of powers that both the Federal and state hold?

14. One of the powers that both governments have is to “make and enforce laws.” Would both governments make and enforce the same types of laws? Explain.
15. What is it called when a government takes private property for public purposes?
16. Which level of government can declare war?
17. Is it permissible for a state to make money?
18. What would be a good summary for this Venn diagram?
19. Does the Venn diagram support this statement, “Only the federal government can declare war.”?
20. Based on the Venn diagram, would the federal government set the speed limit for the street where you live?
21. Based on the information in the Venn diagram, can both the federal and state governments levy taxes?
22. Based on the information in the Venn diagram, does a state government have the power to open and run a post office?
23. Federal legislators want to put a special tax on cigarettes sold in a state. Based on the information in the Venn diagram, is that one of their powers?
24. Based on the information in the Venn diagram, who runs the elections for President, the federal government or the states?
25. One of the powers of a state government is that of establishing local governments. What are examples of local governments that might be established by the state government?

### **ADD YOUR OWN QUESTIONS**