Ideas Behind the US Constitution

- Magna Carta: Cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution
  [Link](https://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/magna-carta-cornerstone-us-constitution#sect-thelesson)
  Over the long term, Magna Carta served to lay the foundation for the evolution of parliamentary government and subsequent declarations of rights in Great Britain and the United States.

- Magna Carta & Social Contracts - Professor Thom Brooks [Video]
  [Link](https://vimeo.com/110700884)
  In this video, Professor Thom Brooks of Law & Government at Durham University, discusses Magna Carta's qualities as a social contract ahead of it's 800th anniversary in 2015.

- Mayflower Compact
  [Link](http://mayflowerhistory.com/mayflower-compact/)
  An explanation of the Mayflower Compact from mayflowerhistory.com.

- Separation of Powers
  [Link](https://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/lesson-plans/separation-of-powers)
  A lesson designed by the National Constitution Center. Shows students firsthand how the three branches of government work together through separation of powers and checks and balances.

- The Social Contract and Constitutional Republics
  [Link](http://www.constitution.org/soclcont.htm)
  Between 1787 and 1791 the Framers of the U.S. Constitution established a system of government upon principles that had been discussed and partially implemented in many countries over the course of several centuries, but never before in such a pure and complete design, which we call a constitutional republic. Since then, the design has often been imitated, but important principles have often been ignored in those imitations, with the result that their governments fall short of being true republics or truly constitutional. Although these principles are discussed in civics books, the treatment of them there is often less than satisfactory. This essay will attempt to remedy some of the deficiencies of those treatments.

- Social Contract Theory
  [Link](http://www.csus.edu/indiv/g/gaskilld/ethics/sct.htm)
  Lecture notes from Professor Dan Gaskill of CSU Sacramento's Philosophy 002 course.

- U.S. Constitution
  [Link](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution)
  Read the full-text of the U.S. Constitution on the National Archives’ website.