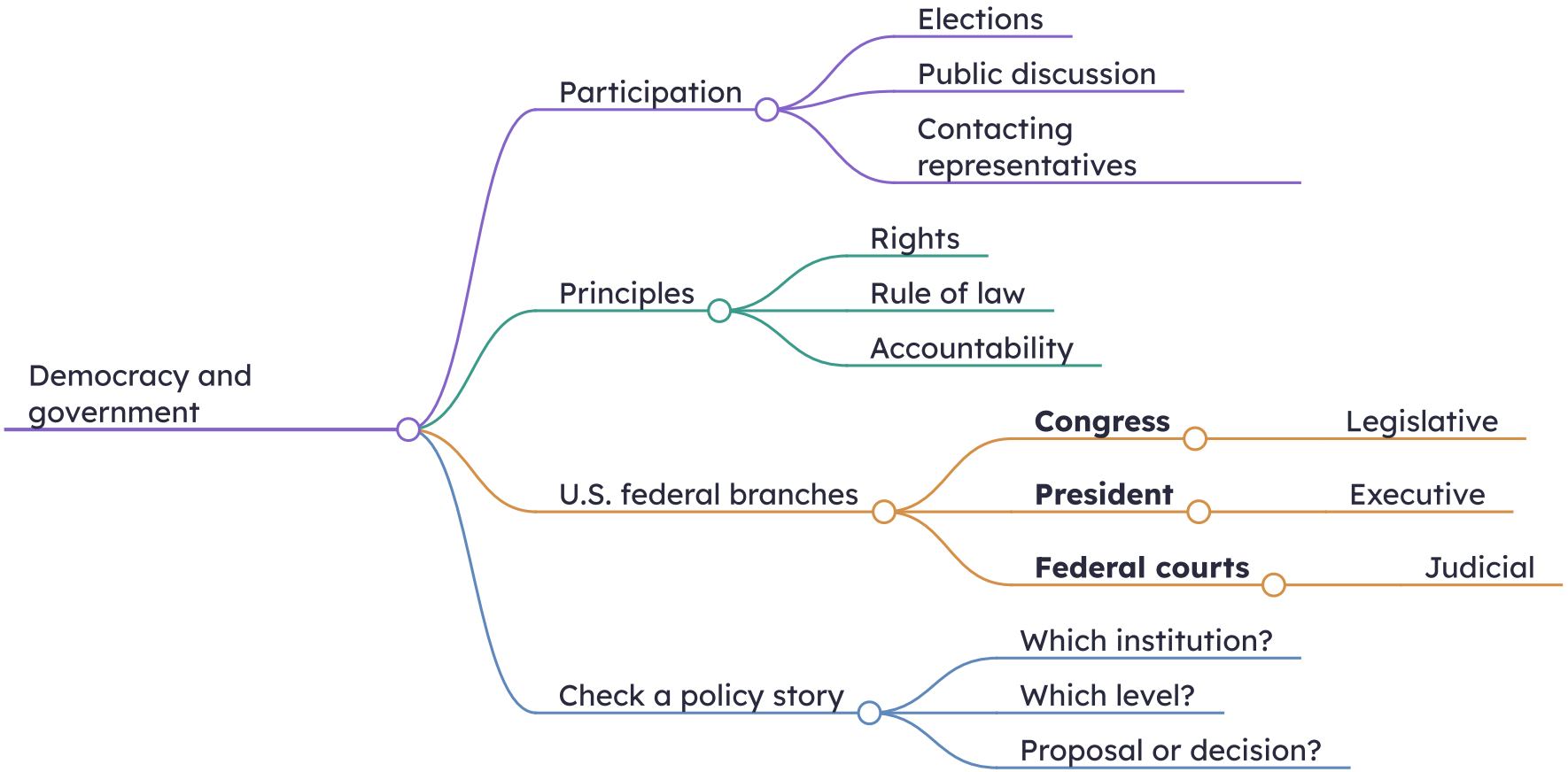
Democracy and government

Use a clearly labeled U.S. example to distinguish participation, rights, and institutional responsibilities.



Read one branch at a time. Then cover the details and explain them in your own words.

Understand the topic

Democracy involves representation, accountability, rights, and participation between elections. In the U.S. federal government, Congress is the legislative branch, the president leads the executive branch, and federal courts form the judicial branch. State and local governments have additional responsibilities. Identifying the relevant level helps make sense of a policy story.

How the map is organized

Separate citizens' participation from institutional roles. The government branch is a U.S. example, not a description of every democracy.

> **Watch out for this**
> Do not confuse federal, state, and local authority or assume that every proposal is already law.

Try it yourself

Choose a public policy news story. Identify the institution, level of government, and whether the action is a proposal, a decision, or implementation.

Two questions to answer

Which is the U.S. federal legislative branch?

Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government.

What should you check in a policy report?

Authority and decision status help distinguish a proposal from an implemented policy.

Sources

USAGov · Branches of government
https://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government

Original practice material compiled by Studera.ai. Explore at studera.ai/en/resources/mind-map-examples.