

## AP Government Panel Discussions Federalism

**Directions:** You will be placed in groups of four and assigned to one of the topics listed below. Once in your groups, you must decide which side to be on (in favor or against). Your job will be to research your topic, and come to class prepared for a panel discussion the next class period. In the panel discussion, each side will have five minutes to present their side to the class. The class can ask questions to the panel, and eventually there will be a class vote on who presented the issue the best. Obviously, your job is to convince the class that your side is correct.

### **Group requirements:**

- 5 - minute presentation that addresses:
    - Thesis
    - Major argumentative points (examples below)
      - The objectives of the federal government in enacting the mandate
      - The impact on state and local government budget priorities as a result of the mandate
      - The potential consequences of the removal of the mandate
    - How federalism helps/hinders your cause
  - Visual to emphasize what is listed above
- 

### **Issue I: Clean Air and Water Act**

- a. The federal government acted within the scope of its authority when enacting Clean Air and Water Act
- b. The federal government DID NOT within its scope of its authority when enacting the Clean Air and Water Act.

### **Issue II: Americans with Disabilities Act**

- a. The Americans with Disabilities act was a necessary action taken by the federal government.
- b. Disability law should be left up to state governments.

### **Issue III: Brady Bill**

- a. The mandatory waiting period and background checks prior to the purchase of a handgun implemented by the Brady Bill imposed an undue burden on the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and all citizens of the states.
- b. The mandatory waiting period and background checks prior to the purchase of a handgun implemented by the Brady Bill provides necessary protection to all citizens of the states.

### **Issue IV: Federal Mandate to Raise the Drinking Age to 21**

- a. The federal government acted appropriately in its federal mandating that the states raise their drinking age to 21 or loose federal highway funds.
- b. The federal government overstepped it authority in mandating that the states raise their drinking age to 21 or loose federal highway funds.

### **Issue V: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

- a. IDEA was a necessary action taken by the federal government to ensure equal education for those with disabilities.
- b. Education laws should be left up to state governments.

### **Issue VI: No Child Left Behind Legislation**

- a. No Child Left Behind was a necessary action taken by the federal government to ensure equal education for minorities and to set common education standards for all school districts.
- b. Education laws should be left up to state governments