Preamble: “We the people of the United States….”

Article 1 – LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
Section 1. Congress in General
All power to make laws is given to Congress (House of Representatives and Senate)

Section 2. The House of Representatives
Clause 1: **Election and term of members** Representatives chosen every 2 years, requirements to elect state governments are the same requirements for US representatives
Clause 2: **Qualification of members** Must be 25 years or older, must be a US citizen for 7 years, must live in state you’re running in
Clause 3: **Appointment of representatives and direct taxes** Each state’s taxes and number of Representatives will be in proportion to their population, not counting Indians and counting 3/5 of slaves. Census (population count) will occur every 10 years. House of Representatives can’t have more than one Representative per 30,000 people, and each state gets at least 1
Clause 4: **Filling vacancies** When representatives resign or die, governor of state selects the replacement until the state government calls an election to fill vacancy
Clause 5: **Officers: impeachment** House of Representatives choose speaker and other officers and only this group can impeach (charge) someone

Section 3. The Senate
Clause 1. **Number and election of members** Each state has 2 senators for 6 years, and each senator has 1 vote
Clause 2: **Choosing Senators** After senators assembled they are divided into 3 groups and elections are staggered so that 1/3 are chosen every 2nd year
Clause 3: **Qualifications of members** Must be 30 years or older, citizen of US 9 years, must live in state you are running in
Clause 4: **Senate President** Vice President is president of the Senate, no vote unless equally divided
Clause 5: **Other Officials** Senate chooses own officer and a president pro tempore to fill in when VP is unavailable
Clause 6: **Impeach trials** Senate holds impeachment trials, when president is on trial chief justice presides (2/3 of senators present must agree for an impeached person to be convicted
Clause 7: **Impeachment convictions** If senate finds impeached person guilty, they must go out of office but no other consequences, but they can still be charged with a crime and tried in regular courts

Section 4. Congressional Elections and Meetings
Clause 1: **Elections** Legislatures decide the times, places, and manner of elections for senators and representatives, Congress can make exceptions
Clause 2: **Meetings of Congress** Congress assembles at least once a year

Section 5. Organization & Rules
Clause 1. **Organization** Each house supervises it own people’s elections, qualifications, etc. and must have a majority present (quorum) to do any business other than to send out notices to the rest of them to come in
Clause 2. **Rules** Each house has power to make its own rules, punish & expel members
Clause 3. **Journal** Congress keeps and publishes record of what goes on at meetings (unless deemed secret), including each person’s vote if requested by 1/5 of those present
Clause 4. **Adjournment** Each house must have other house’s consent before adjourning (leaving) for more than three days or moving to a different place

Section 6. Privileges & Restrictions
Clause 1: **Pay; Congressional Immunity** Senators and Representatives get paid from US Treasury, privileged from arrest unless treason felony or breach of peace
Clause 2: **Restrictions** No one can hold any other job or office while being a Rep or Senator
Section 7. Method of Passing Laws

Clause 1: Revenue bills
Bills for raising money (taxes) start in House of Representatives

Clause 2: How a bill becomes a law
House of Representatives & Senate pass and send bill to the President, he can either veto it within 10 working days, or accept it and make it into a law. If President vetoes, congress can override the veto with 2/3 vote

Clause 3: Presidential Approval & Disproval
Orders, Resolutions, votes, and bills are sent to the president. He can accept or reject, if rejected, it can be repassed by 2/3 of the Senate and House of Representatives and still be a law according to rules & limitations prescribed in the case of the bill

Section 8. Powers granted to Congress

CONGRESS SHALL HAVE POWER...

Clause 1: Impose taxes of many types in order to raise money to pay debts and maintain for the defense and welfare of the country, but the taxes must be fairly applied
Clause 2: To borrow money on the credit of the US
Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations & Indian tribes
Clause 4: To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, uniform laws for bankruptcies
Clause 5: Congress is in control of making money and figuring value, including the value of foreign money, and to decide the weights and measures
Clause 6: To punish those who make fake money
Clause 7: To create and control post offices
Clause 8: To promote science & art by giving authors, inventors, and artists money for control over their creations
Clause 9: To create lower courts
Clause 10: To define and punish felonies & piracies committed on high seas
Clause 11: To declare war, make letters & rules concerning captures of land and water
Clause 12: To raise and support armies as long as the cost is reapproved every two years
Clause 13: To provide & maintain a navy
Clause 14: To make rules for managing and regulating the army and navy
Clause 15: To provide to calling fourth military if needed to enforce laws, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions
Clause 16: To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, but states get to appoint the officers
Clause 17: To make laws for D.C. & all other property belonging to the federal government
Clause 18: ELASTIC CLAUSE; Give congress power to create new laws to help enforce existing laws

Section 9. Powers Denied to the Federal Government

Clause 1: Congress couldn’t take action against slavery until 1808, which prohibited further importation of slaves
Clause 2: Government can’t hold a person in prison without charging him and a lawyer can get a written order to release the person
Clause 3: Congress can’t pass a law punishing a person without a trial or pass “out of or after the fact” laws
Clause 4: Taxes to states must be based on population
 Clause 5: No tax shall be laid on anything exported from any state
Clause 6: Any tariffs (import taxes) have to be the same no matter where the goods come into the US
Clause 7: Congress must pass a law in order to spend any money, and must record all spending to so people can see it
Clause 8: Congress cannot give titles of nobility, and no government official can accept any honorary title or award from anyone or any nation without permission from Congress

Section 10. Power Denied to the States

THINGS STATES CAN’T DO:
Clause 1: Make treaties or alliances, money, give credit, pass a law to
punish someone, pass a retroactive law, undo contracts, or give title of nobility
Clause 2. Can’t have import or export tariffs without consent of Congress and under congress’s control
Clause 3. Create or have armies, make treaties, or go to war

Article 2 – EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Section 1. President & Vice President
  Clause 1. Term of Office The executive head is the president; with help of vice pres; preside for 4 years
  Clause 2. Electoral College Each state appoints a number of electors, equal to their number of senators
      and representatives combined. But no senator, representative, or any person holding a government
      position shall be appointed as an elector
  Clause 3. Time of elections Congress determines time of choosing electors & the day that they vote on
      which is the same day for every state
  Clause 4. Qualifications for President To be president you must be 35 years or older, and a 14 year US
      resident, but a citizen from birth
  Clause 5. Succession Vice president is next in line if the presidency becomes vacant. But if neither can
      do the job, Congress picks a government member until the president is back or a new one elected
  Clause 6. Salary The president gets 1 sum of money for his whole term. It never changes
Section 2. Power of President
  Clause 1. Military powers; cabinet; pardons President is commander-in-chief of all military, in charge of
      cabinet members, can grant pardons or reprieves
  Clause 2. Diplomatic powers; appointments President is the chief diplomat, he makes
      treaties, they must be approved by 2/3 of the Senate’s votes. He also appoints all non elected positions
      (ambassadors, judges, etc.), but senate must approve them
  Clause 3. Filling Vacancies President my fill any vacancies during times Senate is out by granting
      commissions, which expire at the end of session
Section 3. Duties of President (From time to time he gives the Congress info on the state of
      Union. He may, on extra ordinary occasions, convene both houses or adjourn them. He shall receive ambassadors,
      and other public ministers. He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed and shall commission all the
      officers of the US.)
Section 4. Impeachment (The President & Vice President could be removed from office if impeached and convicted
      of treason, bribery, or other high crimes, and misdemeanors.)

Article 3 – JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Section 1. Federal Courts (The judicial power of the US has 1 Supreme Court & lower courts that congress creates.
      Federal judges hold offices as long as they don’t break the law & and get impeached, and they can never get a pay cut
Section 2. Federal Court Jurisdiction
  Clause 1. Federal Cases Federal Courts have highest authority in all matters in America
      with treaties or ambassadors except issue completely within one state
  Clause 2. Supreme Court Jurisdiction For ambassadors, government officials,
      etc…trials start out at Supreme Court. All other cases start out at lower federal courts, but
      may be appealed to the Supreme Court
  Clause 3. Trial Rules The trial of all crimes (besides impeachment) is jury; it is held in the
      state in which the crime was committed; when not in any state, Congress picks location
Section 3. Treason
  Clause 1. Definition: making war against the US or helping others do it; to convict someone of treason, there must
      be two clear witnesses or a confession
  Clause 2. Punishment Congress declares punishment for treason, but government can’t
do any punishment worse than execution (killing)

**Article 4 – THE STATES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

- **Section 1. State Records** The Federal Government and every state must consider any state’s decisions and actions as legitimate in that state

- **Section 2. Rights of Citizens**
  - **Clause 1. Privileges & immunities** Citizens in every state are entitled to the same privileges and immunities as the rest of the states
  - **Clause 2. Extradition** Any person who is charged with a crime in a state that flees to another state will be sent back to the state having jurisdiction for the crime to stand trial

- **Section 3. New States & Territories**
  - **Clause 1. Admission of new states** New states may be formed, but they shall not be formed within the space of any current state, or by joining states unless congress and both state governments approve
  - **Clause 2. Federal territory** Congress has power to govern of or make rules for the territory or other property belonging to the US government

**Article 5 – METHODS OF AMENDMENT**

For the constitution to be amended, 2/3 of both house and senate must approve, along with ¾ of the state governments.

**Article 6 – SUPREMACY OF NATIONAL LAW**

- **Clause 1. Public Debt** United States is responsible for all debts contracted by the previous government

- **Clause 2. Supreme Law of the Land** The constitution, laws of US, and treaties are the supreme law of the land

- **Clause 3. Oath of Office** All senators, representatives, executive & judicial officers, and members of states legislatures are bound by oath to support this constitution but don’t have to be any specific religion

**Article 7 – RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Constitution would go into effect when 9 states voted to accept it. This happened on June 21, 1788 with New Hampshire’s ratification.