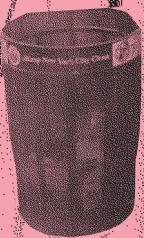


GOVERNMENT
in plain sight!



Introduction

With a presidential election on the horizon and the role of the government as the hot topic, Mr. Sandoval's 9th grade history class set out to answer these questions:

WHERE CAN GOVERNMENT BE FOUND IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

HOW DO FEDERAL, STATE, AND CITY GOVERNMENT LAWS AFFECT OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

AND WHAT'S THE RIGHT ROLE FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO PLAY?

The following pages contain the evidence of government Mr. Sandoval's team of investigators found in the neighborhood of The Academy of Urban Planning. These pages also present the team's opinions on the government policies revealed through everyday objects.

We invite you to participate and add to our collection. Go out, find evidence of government in your neighborhood, and tell the world what you think about it!

Credits

City Studies is a program of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP). CUP partners with public high schools and afterschool programs on project-based curricula that use design and art as tools to research the city.

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement.

welcometoCUP.org

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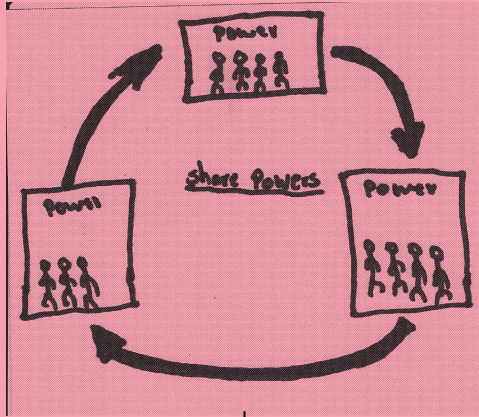
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When I say
FEDERALISM



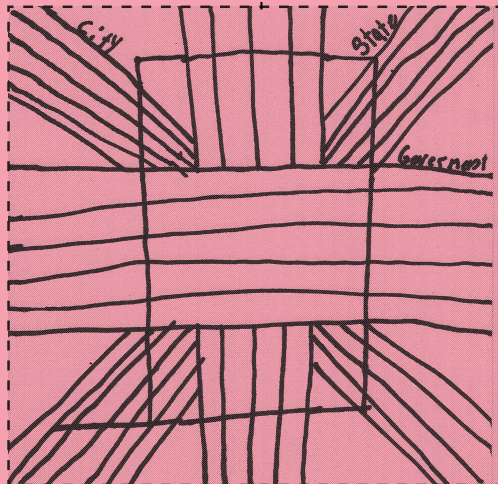
you say
WHAT?

You've probably heard the term in your class. But what does it really mean?

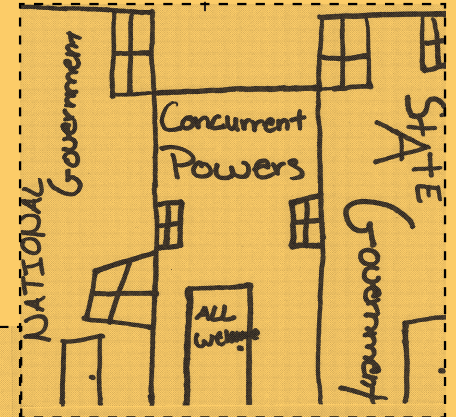
"Federalism is **POWER SHARING**. The three powers share and make one big power."

—Alejandro Nuñez

"The City, State, and Federal government all **MEET IN THE MIDDLE** because they have something in common."
 —Domingo Rodriguez

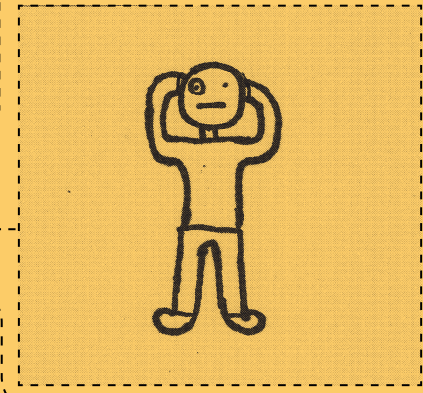


"**CONCURRENT POWERS** are in the middle, they're shared powers."
 —Yianna Richey



"In my drawing, the national and state government are **SHARING CAKE!**"
 —Joseph L.

"I think Federalism can be **A HEADACHE.**"
 —Nimrod a.k.a Tito



Some thoughts from Mr. Sandoval. "How can a small dot on a map labeled Washington D.C. keep 50 states in order? Easy... federalism: the balance of power between the federal and state governments. Amendment 10 of the Constitution says "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

OK, SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS. BUT WHAT DOES THAT ACTUALLY MEAN IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AND MY LIFE?

LET'S START BY TAKING A LOOK AT SOME EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT WE FOUND ON OUR STREETS!

Found object:

LICENSE PLATE

HOW WE KNEW GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED Washington (a.k.a The Evergreen State)

DID YOU KNOW? Each state makes their own rules about license plates, but federal law says registered cars with a license plate from any state are allowed to drive into any other state.



Alexis Montenegro says...
 "License plate is a state law because each state has their own plate."



Found object:

PLAYGROUND RULES SIGN

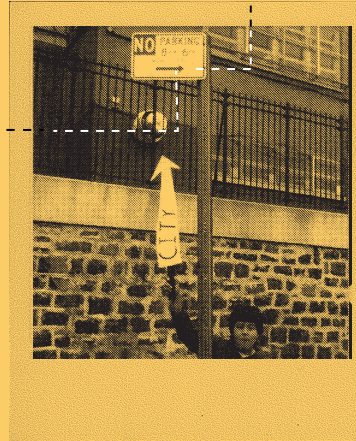
HOW WE KNEW GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED It says "City of New York Parks and Recreation" and has the Mayor's name on it.

Joseph L. says...
 "The government is involved to make sure the park stays orderly and safe. I think it makes sense because it isn't a state park, it's a city park, so the city should be responsible for what's in their park."

Found object:

NO PARKING SIGN

HOW WE KNEW THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED "On the sign it says Dept. of Transportation so we thought it relates to the city."

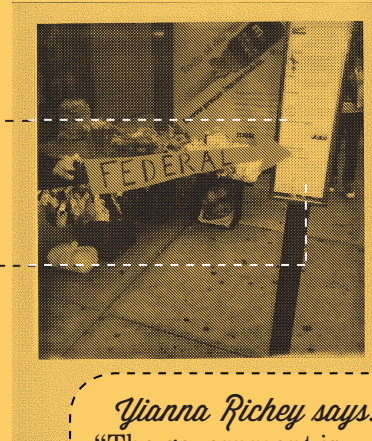


Jazmin Valdez says...
 "I think the government is involved because maybe before people parked there and the city couldn't clean. Now that the government is involved people will not park there. I think it makes sense that the city is responsible for this because without them the streets would look like a mess."

Found object:

BUS STAND

HOW WE KNEW GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED
 It had this text on it:



"...MTA Bus Company are committed to providing non-discriminatory service to ensure that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the receipt of their services on the basis of race, color or national origin as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

Yianna Richey says...
 "The government is involved because they are enforcing the Civil Rights Act and protecting the rights of the people. It's good so that everyone can be treated somewhat equal."

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

MAKE A BIG ARROW FOR EACH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT (FEDERAL, STATE, AND CITY)



LABEL IT BIG

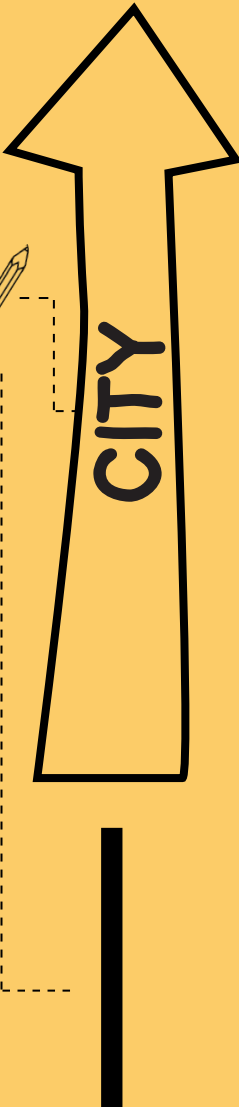
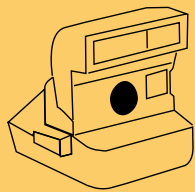


TO MAKE A HANDLE, cut a long strip of cardboard and tape it to the back of the arrow so that it sticks out a little at the bottom

With a friend or in a small group, **GRAB A CAMERA AND TAKE A WALK OUTSIDE.**

Look for anything you think government might be involved with. It could be anything! Street furniture, buildings, parks...

When you **FIND SOMETHING**, decide if you think it is regulated by the federal, state, or city government and point the arrow at it. Take a picture! (or sketch it if you don't have a camera)



WRITE DOWN HOW YOU DECIDED IT WAS FEDERAL, STATE, OR CITY.

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Research!

When you're done, choose one photo or drawing and do a little research to find out if your arrow was right.

HOW IS GOVERNMENT INVOLVED WITH THE OBJECT?

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

What do you think?

WHY DO YOU THINK GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED?

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

DO YOU THINK IT IS THE RIGHT LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT (FEDERAL, STATE, CITY) TO BE RESPONSIBLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Found object:
A PACKAGE OF EGGS

OK, NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT ON THE STREET, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WE DISCOVERED INSIDE OF SOME LOCAL BUSINESSES.

FEDERAL

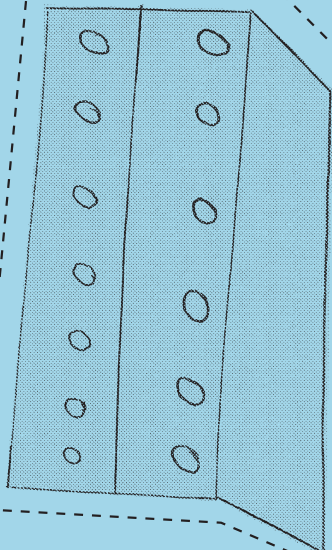
Found by Nicholas Singh at the supermarket

HOW HE KNEW THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED

It had a "U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic" label on it.

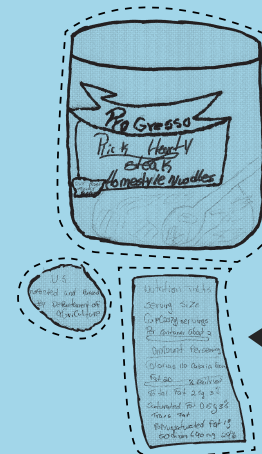
WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO DO WITH EGGS?

The USDA conducts mandatory inspections of egg production facilities to make sure the eggs people eat are wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. These inspections protect consumers from egg-borne illness and misinformation about what they are eating.



Johnathan Vega says...

"It's important for government to play a role because they are doing what's best for someone... they shouldn't let the food makers do it because they may not do the right thing."



Found object:
SOUP CAN

FEDERAL

Found by Anthony Rodriguez at the supermarket

HOW HE KNEW THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED

It had a "Nutrition Facts" label that said it was inspected and passed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO DO WITH A CAN OF SOUP?

The Food and Drug Administration requires that food labels list all of the ingredients and specific nutritional facts. The USDA inspects the beef in the soup and also tells us the recommended daily allowance.

DID YOU KNOW that the FDA has banned a chemical called BPA from plastic baby bottles? But this same chemical can still be found in things like soup can lining, plastic water bottles, and even the receipts at grocery stores. Studies have shown that the chemical can seep into food and that there are possible links between BPA and diabetes and heart disease.

Nicholas Singh says...
 "The FDA should help the people by taking care of them."

Jairo Ramirez says...
 "This issue affects my community because BPA is causing diabetes and heart disease."

Tierra Williams says...

"I do think the government should be involved because people are getting sick from eating and drinking things."

Found object:

WINDMILL SUPPLEMENT

Found by Paris Murriel at the supermarket

HOW SHE KNEW THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED

It had a label that said “These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration.”

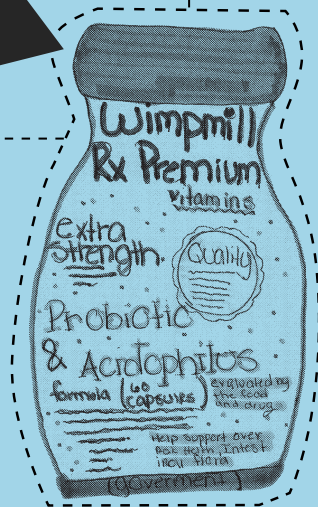
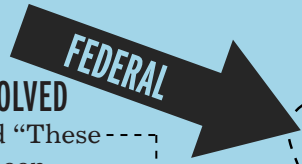
WHAT DOES THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) HAVE TO DO WITH VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS?

The FDA, a part of the federal government, says that all vitamin supplements must have the word “supplement,” the name and place of manufacturer, and a complete list of ingredients on their label.

DID YOU KNOW that before 1938 the federal government lacked the power to make sure new medicine was safe? In 1937 over one hundred people died from a toxic medicine called Elixir Sulfanilamide. A year later, the U.S. congress passed the Food Drug and Cosmetics Act of 1938 giving the FDA more power and requiring drug companies to test their products for safety before selling them.

Emma Rosado says...

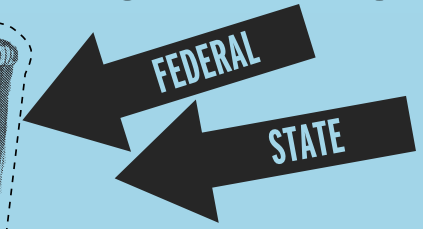
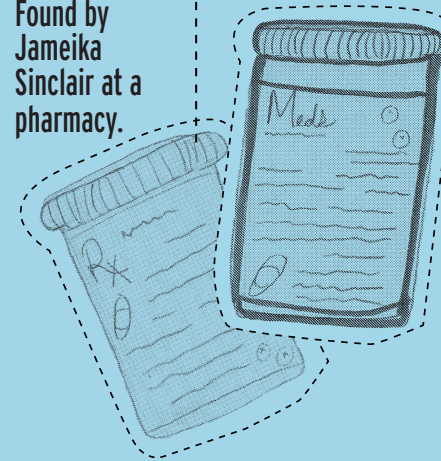
“It was important for the government to play a role because many people were dying from this drug and the drug makers just want money.”



Found object:

PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE BOTTLES

Found by Jameika Sinclair at a pharmacy.



WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO DO WITH PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE?

The FDA approves prescription medication to treat diseases and also regulates what is on the label. The New York State Board of Pharmacy makes the rules for how the medication is given out.

DID YOU KNOW that there are certain types of pharmacies called “compounding pharmacies” that are not required to tell the FDA they are in business or what they’re making? This makes it hard for the FDA to do inspections or enforce rules. In 2012 over 30 people died and more than 460 people got sick in the U.S. from a contaminated drug produced by one of these pharmacies.

Brandon Murray says...

“If I was sick I would need to get medicine from the pharmacy but it’s giving out disease that might kill me or get me sick.”

Paris Murriel says...

“The federal government should be involved because this is a big subject... it can cause a lot of deaths. Also the drugs were being shipped state to state.”

Found object:

FDIC POSTER

Found by Imani Mack
at the bank

FEDERAL

Each Depositor insured to at least \$250,000!

Backed by the full faith & credit of the United States Government.

FDIC

Consumer Check Clearing table

Type of Deposit

✓ Cash Deposit

Funds Generally Available

✓ ATM in which case funds are Available immediately.

HOW SHE KNEW GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED

It said the "Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation" (FDIC) on it

WHAT DOES THE FDIC HAVE TO DO WITH BANKS?

After the stock market crash of 1929 about 9,000 banks went out of business. That meant customers lost about \$1.3 billion dollars. In 1933, congress created the FDIC to protect consumers by insuring their deposit accounts for up to \$250,000.

DID YOU KNOW that in 2008, after years of de-regulating the banking industry, there was another major banking crisis? It was the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression! In response, Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Act in 2010, giving rise to stronger government regulation of big banks to protect consumers with the hope of preventing more economic catastrophes.

Joseph Lantigua says...

"It affects me because if my parents lose their money they can't pay the rent and all their savings will be lost."

Freddy Rivera says...

"This will affect my community because if the bank lost a lot of bets of a high amount of money the bank will be broke and people will lose their money."

Christian Marin says...

"It affects our community because if the bank loses all its money most of the people are going to be poor."

WHO CARES IF OUR GOVERNMENT
MAKES LAWS TO PROTECT PEOPLE?



Some thoughts from Mr. Sandoval:

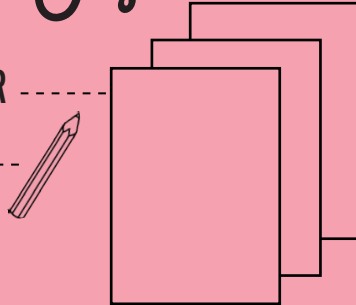
"If you want to be a leader in the community, you should know how our laws work and the importance of government. If you do these activities, you'll get a close eye and ear on how the different levels of governments affect local businesses like banks, bodegas, and supermarkets, and how laws protect us. Interact first-hand with local business-owners to find out how the government passes important laws that change our history."

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

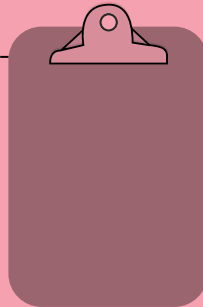
Again!

It's easy, and you can do this on your own or with a small group of friends!

Grab a few **BLANK PIECES OF PAPER** and **A PEN OR PENCIL**.



Also, you'll probably need **SOMETHING TO DRAW AND WRITE ON**, like a clipboard, a textbook, or a piece of cardboard.



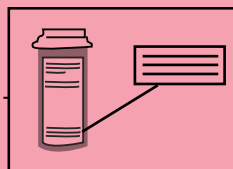
PICK A BUSINESS in your neighborhood and visit them. Supermarkets and pharmacies are good places to start.

When you get there, **LOOK FOR CLUES** of government involvement. It could be anywhere: in the entryway, on the food, or even on the walls.



When you find something, **DRAW IT!**

Then, on the same piece of paper, **DRAW A BIG MAGNIFIED VERSION** of the part that made you think government was involved.



Now, take some notes: What is it? Where did you find it? Do you think the federal, state, or city government is involved?

Three horizontal dashed lines for taking notes.

Research!

When you're done, choose one object and do a little research to find out if you were right with your federal, state, or city match up.

HOW IS GOVERNMENT INVOLVED WITH THE OBJECT?

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing the answer.

What do you think?

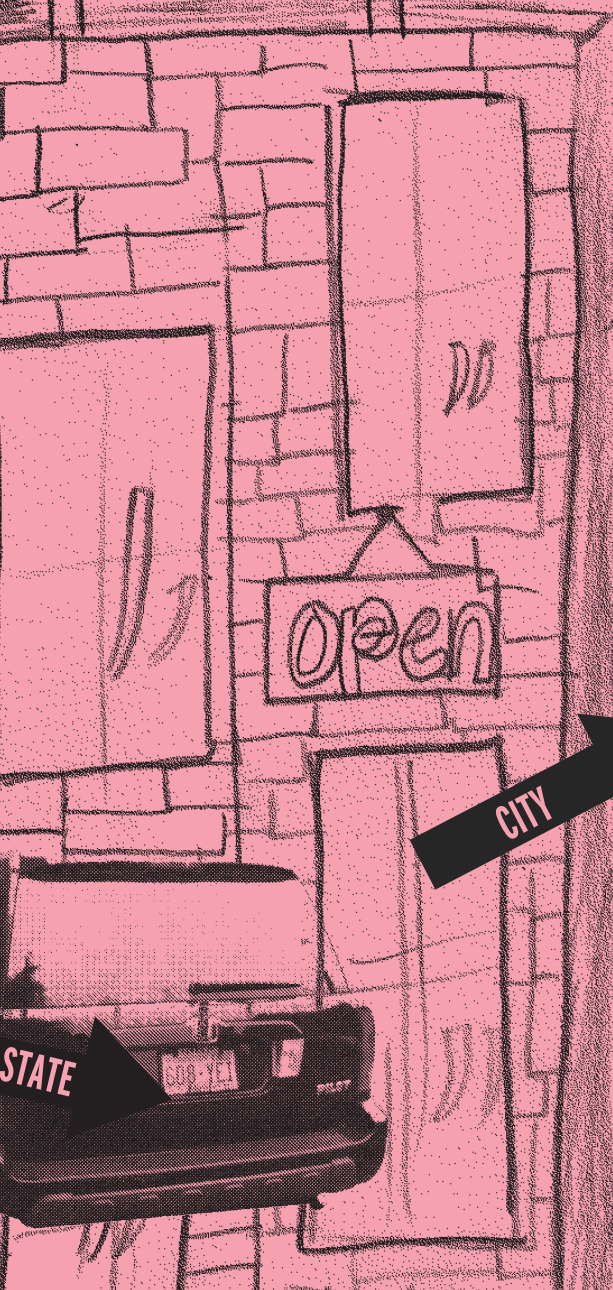
WHY DO YOU THINK GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED?

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing the answer.

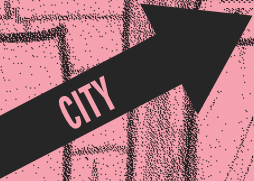
DO YOU THINK IT IS THE RIGHT LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT (FEDERAL, STATE, CITY) TO BE RESPONSIBLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing the answer.

BANK



open

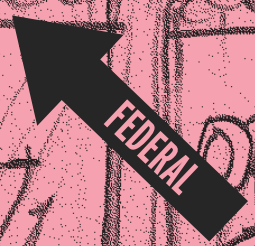


CITY



GROCERY STORE

CAUTION HARD HAT AREA



FEDERAL



STATE