



Yuval Levin

The Separation of Powers

OPENING THE CONVERSATION

1. Levin describes separation of powers as dynamic. What stood out most to you?
2. What idea or argument from this essay stayed with you?

CLOSE READING AND INTERPRETATION

3. Why did the Framers design overlapping powers rather than strict divisions?
4. How does Levin describe the role of tension between branches?
5. How does this system reflect assumptions about human nature?

EXPLORING TENSIONS

6. Is conflict between branches a sign of strength or dysfunction?
7. What happens when this balance breaks down?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

8. Where do you see this system working well—or under strain—today?
9. What role do individuals and norms play in maintaining this system?

CLOSING REFLECTION

10. How does this essay shape your understanding of constitutional design?