

Federalism in Action

Federalism is defined as the division of power between our federal and state governments.

Although you may not realize it, you encounter and participate in this concept several times a day! Read the following scenarios and decide:

1) Who has the power to complete this action?

2) Which departments or offices might be in charge of this action?

There may be several departments involved in each scenario.

Departments of the Federal Government:	Departments of the Local and State Government:
<p>United States Postal Service (USPS)</p> <p>Bureau of the Census (Tracks the population of the U.S.)</p> <p>Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)</p> <p>Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</p> <p>Internal Revenue Service (IRS-Collects taxes)</p> <p>Transportation Security Administration (TSA-the people you see at airports)</p> <p>U.S. Customs and Border Control (Monitors the borders of the country and what you bring into it)</p> <p>Bureau of Indian Affairs</p> <p>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p> <p>Department of Agriculture (Deals with farming)</p> <p>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</p>	<p>Local</p> <p>New York Police Department (NYPD)</p> <p>New York City Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>New York City Department of Health and Mental hygiene</p> <p>New York City Department of City Planning</p> <p>State:</p> <p>New York State Board of Elections</p> <p>New York State Division of Human Rights</p> <p>Office of Children and Family Services</p> <p>New York State Department of taxation and Finance</p>

Federalism in Action Scenarios

Scenario 1:

You're running late to school and have a test in 1st period, so you beg your mom to drive a little faster. You're about a block away from your school when your mom gets pulled over by a police officer, who issues her a speeding ticket.

Is this a local, state, or federal issue? Why? What departments were involved?

Scenario 2:

You used an online two-day shipping offer to order your brother's birthday gift last minute. Upon your arrival home from school at 3:30, you find a note left by the U.S. Postal Service stating that a delivery was attempted but no one was home. Your package is sitting at a postal facility a few blocks from your apartment. It closes at 4:00 PM.

Is this a local, state, or federal issue? Why? What departments were involved?

Scenario 3:

In social studies class today, you learned that you can register to vote on your 18th birthday. You're so interested in politics and can't wait until you can cast your ballot for your favorite candidates.

Is this a local, state, or federal issue? Why? What departments were involved?

Scenario 4:

Your father is in a really bad mood and tells you and your brother that he's going to have to cut back on spending for the next few months. He also says that you won't be taking your annual summer family vacation. When you ask him what's going on, he tells you that he just filed his taxes and owes a lot of money.

Is this a local, state, or federal issue? Why? What departments were involved?

Scenario 5:

One day, you walk to your local park to meet your friend for a basketball game. It's a beautiful day; you enjoy the fresh spring air. The streets in your neighborhood are lined with trees and planters filled with colorful tulips.

Is this a local, state, or federal issue? Why? What departments were involved?

Scenario 6:

You're on the school track-and-field team. At the end of each year, your coach treats your entire team to lunch at a local pizzeria. Everyone enjoys a fresh meal in a clean restaurant. The bathrooms are perfectly clean, the kitchen is spotless, and no one gets sick from any foodborne diseases.

Is this a local, state, or federal issue? Why? What departments were involved?

Scenario 7:

Your grandma is returning from a visit to Italy and has brought a suitcase full of salami and olives through customs at the airport. It has been confiscated upon her re-entry into the country.

Is this a local, state, or federal issue? Why? What departments were involved?