



Winner, Best Poem 2018-2019  
Constituting America's "We The Future Contest"

**“How do the checks and balances of the Constitution protect our rights?”**

Checks and balances are in the US Constitution

Checks and balances are composed of Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches

Checks and balances are protecting our rights as citizens

Checks and balances are a gift of Baron de Montesquieu’s philosophy of separation of powers

Checks and balances smell like fragrant ancient paper

Checks and balances tastes like a perfect blend of pasta, tomato sauce, and cheese

Checks and balances sound like high pitched cicadas in the summer

Checks and balances look like an equilateral triangle

Checks and balances feel like lifting massive dumbbell weights

Checks and balances make me feel included and safe

Checks and balances are a flexible way to govern

By Lara Elkasri

Age 10

5<sup>th</sup> grade