**The Big Idea**

**Directions: Based on these scenarios, on your chart in the column that says, “I Think it Means,” write a definition for each principle of government (the big ideas).**

**Rule of Law Scenario**

The president is caught committing a crime. He is not simply forgiven because of his position of authority. The president is charged with the crime and must go to court where a jury will determine if he is guilty or innocent. If he is found guilty, he faces the same punishments as everyday American citizens.

**Self Government Scenario (Direct Democracy)**

A group of people start a new country called Cushland. They decide they do not want a king or a dictator to be their leader. Instead, each citizen of Cushland has a say in their country’s decisions. The citizens create their own laws, they vote to make decisions regarding issues in Cushland. Each citizen has a voice and each person’s opinion matters.

**Due Process Scenario**

The United States does not make laws that are unfair. For example, there is no law that says on people born in July can ride the city bus. That law would discriminate against many people. Additionally, when a citizen is charged with a crime, they have rights. They are to be told what they are being charged with, they have the right to a lawyer, they have the right to a fair trial by a jury of their peers.

**Limited Government Scenario**

In the United States, the president does not have unlimited power. While he is given certain powers by the Constitution, the Constitution also limits him from taking certain actions. He is also not the only leader in our nation. Aside from the executive branch, we will also have the legislative and judicial branches. Each branch has certain responsibilities, but ultimately must follow the rules of the Constitution.

**Rights Scenario**

As citizens, we believe there are certain things we should be able to do freely without the fear or punishment from law enforcement or the government. For example, in the United States, we value freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and freedom to petition the government.