

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:
“General Welfare” Sales Pitch (15–20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students recognize persuasive political reasoning used to expand government power under the “General Welfare” clause.

Instructions

1. Divide students into pairs or groups of three.
2. Print Page 2, cut the scenarios into strips, and let student teams draw a scenario. (Of course, if you have other ideas, feel free to use those!)
3. Explain to teams that for their scenario, they must prepare a political speech arguing that their proposal is “for the general welfare of the United States.” Rules for speeches:
 - **It must sound persuasive and serious.**
 - **It must explain how the public benefits.**
 - **It cannot admit that the idea is silly in any way.**
4. Give student groups about 8–10 minutes to finish their speeches.
5. Ask each team to read its pitch aloud.

Wrap-Up/Final Direction

Ask students:

- How easy was it to justify almost anything?
- Why did Madison and many others fear this clause could be stretched?
- What happens when broad phrases have no clear limits?

Conclusion: If government can spend money on anything officials claim helps the “general welfare,” then government power is not truly limited.

Government-funded birthday parties

Federal free ice cream program

A national video gaming league

Government-funded vacations

Federal shoe subsidies

National Department of Entertainment

Government-funded backyard pools

Taxpayer-funded free snacks

Nationwide mandatory nap hour

Government-funded robot pets