**Sequencing Rationale**

This unit on the U.S. Branches of Government is sequenced according to the concept-related sequencing pattern of propositional relations. It is organized to show relationship between each branch. The units are not placed in any chronological order or in any order of increasing difficulty. The Branches of government taught in this unit can be sequenced in any concept-related form that will be most understandable and rationale to students.

The first subunit, “Legislative Branch”, is the first unit the students will explore from the Branches of Government. Students will read and analyze Article 1 of the Constitution, which then they will be able to define the purpose of the legislative branch, describe the role of Congress, as well as, examine each function of the Senate and House of Representative. This unit will have students’ research and identify current issues of the legislative branch and past events, i.e. the Great Compromise, Tea Parties, along with various agencies.

In the second subunit, “Executive Branch”, students will define the purpose and role of this branch, examine the roles of the President and Vice Presidents, and describe the difference amongst the two. Students will read and analyze Article 2 of the Constitution. Students will also research and identify the current President and evaluate his leadership role. In addition, this subunit will examine the role and functions of Cabinet members, executive agencies, and independent agencies.

The third subunit students will define the purpose and role of the Judicial Branch and how it became established in Article 3 of the Constitution. Students will read and analyze the role of the Supreme Court, its functions, and research and identify the current Supreme Court Justices. Students will also describe the similarities and differences between the Supreme Court and federal court, plus evaluate the judicial review process.

The final subunit will bring all three together in relation of “Checks and Balances”, starting with defining the separating of powers. This unit is important because it brings together information from all three to help students fully understand the role of each branch and how they balance each other out. The students will become fully involved in the impeachment process, which level of branch can veto bills, and how laws are declared unconstitutional. Students will become actively engaged in the Presidential impeachment process and current issues surrounding the process.