the document name the key principles found in the document around the U.S. document it influenced/impacted

The **Magna Carta** influenced the colonists’ views on the purpose of government in three main ways. First, it helped to establish **limited government** in the United States through the three branches outlined in the U.S. Constitution. Each branch has the power to check or limit the power of the other two. The system of **checks and balances** keeps any one branch from getting too powerful. Second, like the Magna Carta, the U.S. Constitution is the law of the land and no one is above it. This is the idea of **rule of law**.

1. Summarize the impact the Magna Carta has had on our government:

The **English Bill of Rights** stated that every person possesses individual rights that must be protected. The **English Bill of Rights** influenced the colonists’ views about the purposes of government because ideas from it were included in two founding documents: the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. First, in the Declaration of Independence, the colonists wrote that they “held certain truths to be self-evident,” (obvious), “that all men are created equal and they have certain unalienable rights that include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Also, government gets its power from the consent of the governed. Second, in the U.S. Constitution, the influence of the English Bill of Rights can be seen in the Bill of Rights which includes the right to petition the government, freedom of speech, peaceable (peaceful) assembly, freedom of the press and the right to bear arms.

1. Explain the impact the EBR had on our Constitution:

The **Mayflower Compact** set up a government with the first written set of laws for the English settlers who arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The **Mayflower Compact** also influenced the colonists’ ideas about the purpose of government through ideas that have been included in the U.S. Constitution. Most importantly, the idea of **self-government** is central to the U.S. Constitution. By beginning the U.S. Constitution with the words “We the People,” the Founders made it clear that the people establish (create) the government. Influences from the Mayflower Compact are also found in the Fourteenth Amendment, which states: “*No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”* This amendment reflects the colonists’ goal of having **fair and equal laws** for all.

1. Explain the importance of the words “We the People” in the Constitution:

***Common Sense*** is a pamphlet (booklet) written in 1776 by Thomas Paine, who encouraged colonists to seek independence from England. The pamphlet accused King George III of England of tyranny, challenged his right to power over the colonists, and blamed him for treating the colonists unfairly. Paine also wrote that the colonies needed a written constitution with a set of rules that everyone would have to follow and a government that could not abuse its power. ***Common Sense*** influenced many colonists to support the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence argued that the people must **alter** (change) or **abolish** (remove from power) a destructive government and replace it with one that meets the needs of the people.

1. What effect did Common Sense have on support for the Declaration?