**Comparing Canadian and American Systems of Government**

**How are they the same?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**How are they different?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Canada** | **With regard to…** | **United States** |
|  | Constitution |  |
|  | Languages |  |
|  | Head of State / Head of Government |  |
|  | Elections |  |
|  | Senators |  |
|  | Support of the House |  |
|  | Division of Powers |  |

**Answer Key: Comparing Canadian and American Systems of Government**

**How are they the same?**

|  |
| --- |
| * Democratic, federal states * Similar cultures |

**How are they different?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Canada** | **With regard to…** | **United States** |
| * Written (Canadian and British statutes) * Unwritten (traditions, customs, conventions | **Constitution** | * One written document |
| * Two official languages (French and English) | **Languages** | * One language (English) |
| * Queen (represented by Governor General) is head of state * Prime Minister is head of government | **Head of State / Head of Government** | * President is both head of state and head of government |
| * Elections every 5 years * No limit to how long person can be Prime Minister | **Elections** | * President can only be elected to a maximum of 2 terms |
| * Appointed by Governor General * Serve until age 75 | **Senators** | * Elected for fixed terms |
| * Prime Minister needs the support of the House of Commons in order to maintain power | **Support of the House** | * President and Congress may disagree but President remains in power until end of term |
| * Decentralization—broadened powers of provinces and narrowed power of federal government | **Division of Powers** | * Centralization—broadened federal power and narrowed powers of states |