Presidential Roles and Qualifications

Roles and Powers of the Executive Branch
The Executive Bureaucracy

- US Government
  - Executive Branch
    - President
    - Vice President
  - Legislative Branch
  - Judicial Branch
    - Cabinet
The President

- **Article II, Section 1**
  - Presidential Qualifications and Restrictions
    - At least 35 years old
    - Natural born citizen of US
    - 14 year resident of US
    - Term 4 years

- **22nd Amendment**
  - Limits president’s term in office to two terms, or total of 10 years
Presidential Roles

Article II, Section 2 and 3

• Chief of State:
  • Role: The president's role as chief of state is to represent the United States at public events.

• Chief Diplomat
  • Role: Being a diplomat involves interacting with leaders from other nations.
  • The president is the main creator of foreign policy.
Presidential Roles

• **Chief Executive**
  • Role: The President controlled agencies have the responsibility and authority to carry out the laws made by congress.
  • The president is the head of the Executive Branch, and has highest authority.

• **Chief Legislator**
  • Role: The President can voice his own ideas and opinions to Congress while they draft legislation.
    • Through speeches and meetings with different Senators
Presidential Roles

• **Commanders in Chief**
  • Role: The president is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces.
    • All military leaders report to and take orders from the president
    • War Powers Act of 1973
    • Allows President to send troops into combat for up to 60 days without congress approval

• **Chief Citizen**
  • Role: The moral leader of America. Role model. Act in the best interest of the general public.
Presidential Roles

• Chief of Party
  • Role: the president helps member of his political party get elected or appointed to office.
The Responsibility of the Executive Branch

• The president has the job, responsibility and duty to make sure that all laws are enforced and administered, as per the constitution:
  • Article II, section 1, clause 8 (the presidential oath)
  • Article II, section 3, called the “take care” power

• The President has Ordinance Power through the use of Executive Orders
  • A directive, rule, or regulation that has the effect of law
The Power of Appointing

• The President has the power to appoint and remove federal officials
  • Three major reasons for removal are: inefficiency in office, neglect of duty, or inappropriate behavior

• Once the President receives the consent of the Senate, he appoints most of the top-ranking officials in the Federal Government.
  • Appointments approved by Senate
    • Federal judges
      • President can not remove Judges
    • Cabinet members
    • Heads of independent agencies
    • Officers of the military.
Diplomatic Powers of the President

• The President has the power to make treaties with foreign governments
  • Treaties Negotiated through Secretary of State
  • Treaties have to be approved by 2/3 of Senate

• President can negotiate Executive Agreements
  • Less formal than treaties and do not require Senate Approval
  • Usually extensions of existing treaties

• President has power to recognize new countries and governments
Legislative Powers of the President

• The President gives a “State of the Union” address each year, where he presents ideas for new legislation to Congress.
  • President can submit or recommend legislation that Congress should pursue

• President also has power to Veto Bills passed through Congress that they do not agree with

• The President has the power to call special sessions of Congress if a pressing matter occurs
Judicial Powers of the Executive Branch

• According to article II, section 2, clause 1 the president has the power to issue:
  • Pardon – Issued by the president it is legal forgiveness for a crime
  • Amnesty – Issued by the president it is a pardon for a large group of people
  • Reprieve – Issued by the president it is postponing a sentence
  • Commutation - Issued by the president it is a reduction of a sentence