

## 4. What Is the President's Job? | Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Crisis! Power Grab!



Government Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Civilization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the crisis? (briefly sum up)

\_\_\_\_\_

What does the leader (or the group for Direct Democracy) do in response?

\_\_\_\_\_

What could go wrong with this kind of order? (for Direct Democracy: what could go wrong when big decisions are made by a huge crowd in the moment?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What limits would protect the people while still allowing the leader to act? (for Direct Democracy: what limits would prevent the mob from making emotional decisions?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you were president, what change would you make to help America be a better place, and why?





# PRESIDENT

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## COMMANDER IN CHIEF



### Comprehension Questions

1. Article II of the Constitution explains the \_\_\_\_\_ branch.
2. What is the main job of this branch?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is this section of the Constitution more broad and general than the section for Congress?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. List the main responsibilities of the President:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
5. List the checks that other branches provide:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
6. Briefly explain the Electoral College.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How long is the presidential term? \_\_\_\_\_

8. How many terms can the President serve? \_\_\_\_\_

9. The President can choose the members of his Cabinet, but they must be approved by the Senate. Why do you think the Founders did this?

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10. What are some job titles of other people in the executive branch? List three.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key | What Is the President's Job?

### Box 1: Crisis! Power Grab!

Answers will vary by group. Grade for understanding. (Use this to check student responses against the intended model.)

#### Dictatorship

**Crisis:** A deadly illness spreads quickly.

**Leader response:** Takes full control of news, medicine, and travel; jails anyone who questions him.

**What could go wrong:** Leader can lie, silence helpful criticism, and punish innocent people; emergency powers could become permanent.

**Limits to protect people:** Free speech/press; time limit on emergency orders; fair trials; other leaders/courts must approve arrests or restrictions.

#### Absolute Monarchy

**Crisis:** Rumor of enemy spies hiding in the kingdom.

**Leader response:** Curfew; guards can search any home; arrests people who complain.

**What could go wrong:** People lose privacy and freedom; innocent people searched/arrested; king can abuse "safety" as an excuse for control.

**Limits to protect people:** Searches require a reason/permission; due process and fair trials; curfew must have limits; other leaders must approve major rules.

#### Oligarchy

**Crisis:** Flooding across the land after heavy rain.

**Leader response:** Gives aid only to towns that support the oligarchs; ignores others.

**What could go wrong:** Unfair distribution; leaders reward friends; people suffer because of politics; corruption.

**Limits to protect people:** Aid must be based on need; transparency; equal treatment; oversight by neutral groups; representatives from all towns involved.

#### Theocracy

**Crisis:** Leader claims different religions threaten unity/order.

**Leader response:** Makes all other religions illegal; jails anyone who worships differently.

**What could go wrong:** People punished for beliefs; forced religion; fear; unfair arrests; rights removed.

**Limits to protect people:** Religious freedom; equal rights for all; no jail for belief; fair trials; laws must protect rights.

#### Communist Government

**Crisis:** Leader suspects people are plotting against him.

**Leader response:** Creates a secret police force loyal only to him to silence dissent.

**What could go wrong:** People arrested without proof; fear spreads; leader punishes critics; government hides mistakes.

**Limits to protect people:** Freedom of speech; due process; independent courts; limits/oversight on police; transparency/free press.

#### Direct Democracy

**Crisis:** A nearby island refuses to join an alliance; citizens feel insulted and worried others will refuse too.

**Group response:** Large crowd votes quickly to punish the island and “make an example.”

**What could go wrong:** Emotional decisions; unfair punishments; rights ignored; rumors/loud voices sway the crowd.

**Limits to protect people:** Require a second vote later; time delay for big actions; evidence and fair process for big decisions; protect basic rights; elect representatives to debate.

### **Speech Blurb: If you were president, what change would you make?**

Accept all reasonable answers. This is a place where students are encouraged to think through the weight of this responsibility alongside the power that it holds.

### **Comprehension Questions | Answers**

1. Article II explains the \_\_\_\_\_ branch. **Executive**
2. Main job of this branch? **Carry out/enforce laws; run the government; lead the country and make sure laws are followed.**
3. Why is Article II more broad than Congress’s section? **Gives the President flexibility; allows quick action in emergencies; Founders couldn’t predict every future situation.**
4. Main responsibilities of the President (any 3–6): **Enforce laws; Commander in Chief; Chief Executive; Chief Diplomat; appoint Cabinet (Senate approves); appoint judges (Senate approves); sign/veto laws; represent the nation.**
5. Checks from other branches (any 3–5): **Congress controls spending; only Congress declares war; Senate approves appointments; impeachment/removal; Congress can override vetoes.**
6. Electoral College (brief): **People vote in states; electors cast official votes; usually winner-take-all by state; used instead of one national popular vote.**
7. Presidential term length: **4 years**
8. Number of terms: **2 terms**
9. The President can choose the members of his Cabinet, but they must be approved by the Senate. Why do you think the Founders did this? **Provides a check; prevents unqualified/dangerous picks; keeps one person from having too much power.**
10. Three executive branch job titles: (examples): **Vice President; Cabinet members; Attorney General; ambassadors; department heads; advisors/staff.**