



Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #11 PRESIDENTIAL POWER

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

congress	constitution	executive	pardons	formal
electoral	president	agenda	military	diplomatic

- 1. The _____ is a limited document. It lays the framework and the rules and that's all.
- 2. If you want to be _____ of the US, and I know you do, you must be 35 years old, which in the 1780s was actually pretty old.
- 3. The President is actually chosen by the _____ College, which is complicated and frustrating for many Americans.
- 4. First, he has _____ powers to send soldiers and planes and ships to do military things.
- 5. _____ powers are the ones we can find in the Constitution itself, mainly in Article 2.
- 6. The President has _____ powers, although he doesn't actually do most of the diplomacy.
- 7. The Constitution requires that the President inform _____ of the state of the Union.
- 8. This may not seem like much of a power, but the State of the Union is a chance for the President to set a policy _____ for the next year, and it can put some pressure on Congress to make policy.
- 9. He does have the power to grant _____ and reprieves, which doesn't sound like a big deal, unless you're in jail or threatened by criminal prosecution, in which case it's a very big deal.
- 10. They were especially afraid of a strong _____, like a king, in charge of a standing army, so deliberately they tried to curtail his powers by not giving him very many.



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Directions: Write one thing you think you know about the topic.

1. _____

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Answer Key

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- 1. The **Constitution** is a limited document. It lays the framework and the rules and that's all.
- 2. If you want to be **President** of the US, and I know you do, you must be 35 years old, which in the 1780s was actually pretty old.
- 3. The President is actually chosen by the **Electoral** College, which is complicated and frustrating for many Americans.
- 4. First, he has **military** powers to send soldiers and planes and ships to do military things.
- 5. **Formal** powers are the ones we can find in the Constitution itself, mainly in Article 2.
- 6. The President has **diplomatic** powers, although he doesn't actually do most of the diplomacy.
- 7. The Constitution requires that the President inform **Congress** of the state of the Union.
- 8. This may not seem like much of a power, but the State of the Union is a chance for the President to set a policy **agenda** for the next year, and it can put some pressure on Congress to make policy.
- 9. He does have the power to grant **pardons** and reprieves, which doesn't sound like a big deal, unless you're in jail or threatened by criminal prosecution, in which case it's a very big deal.
- 10. They were especially afraid of a strong **executive**, like a king, in charge of a standing army, so deliberately they tried to curtail his powers by not giving him very many.