



Scholar Exchange: Article II - The Presidency and the Executive Branch

Introductory Level Class Outline and Worksheet

INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION RESOURCES

- Resources for [Article II](#)

OVERVIEW

I. Introduction of the Constitution's Text

II. Founding Story

III. Tests of Presidential Power

IV. Congress and the President

V. Supreme Court Cases

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is the job of the President? What powers and responsibilities does the Constitution give to the President?
- How did the Founding generation come up with the idea of the President, and what were their worries?
- Which presidential powers were written down, and what has been defined over time?
- What was the Founding generation's vision for the President?
- How has the President's role in our constitutional system changed over time?
- What are some of the modern debates over the Presidency? (Like executive orders)

BIG IDEA

With the new President, the Founding generation set out to establish an executive head stronger than the weak Governors in charge of the states at the time, but weaker than a king.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTITUTION'S TEXT

List at least two places in the Constitution where the Executive is discussed.	
Where is it in the Constitution?	What is discussed?

II. FOUNDING STORY

What are some of the questions about the Presidency and the Executive that the Framers had to answer during the Constitutional Convention? List two below.	
What was the issue?	How was it resolved?

III. TESTS OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

Describe one debate about the scope of presidential power.	
What was the debate?	
What happened that led to the debate's resolution?	
How was the debate resolved?	

IV. CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

What are some key areas of debate in the balance of power between Congress and the President?	
What are some key words you hear discussed about this debate?	

V. SUPREME COURT CASES

What is one Supreme Court case that dealt with the question of presidential power?	
What is the case?	
How did the Supreme Court rule?	