

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

**Introductory Level  
Class Outline and Worksheet**

**INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION RESOURCES**

* Resources for [Article II](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/learning-material/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?** |  |