

Handout A: Executive Powers

Constitutional Citation	Explanation of the Executive Power
Article I, Section 7: ...[I]f he approve he shall sign [a bill], but if not he shall return it...	The president has the power to approve or veto bills from the legislature, but the legislature can override the veto with a vote of two-thirds.
Article II, Section 1: The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America...	The executive power shall be held by the President with the Vice President. Both will be elected for the same term of four years by electors from the states. The President must be natural-born, at least 35 years of age, and have been a resident for at least 14 years.
Article II, Section 1: He shall take the following oath or affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."	The President will take an oath swearing to execute the office of president and agreeing to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution.
Article II, Section 2: The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States...	The President will be Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. He will have the power to grant reprieves or pardons except in cases of impeachment. He shall have the power to make treaties and appoint justices or officers with the advice and consent of the Senate.
Article II, Section 2: [H]e may require the opinion, in writing, of the principle officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices...	The President may require each member of the Cabinet to submit his/her written opinion regarding anything related to his/her department's assigned duties. Presumably, the President cannot demand that the Secretary of the Interior share his/her opinions about matters that fall to the Labor or Education Depts.
Article II, Section 3: He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient...	The President will provide information to Congress about the state of the nation and recommend new measures or policies to them. He may convene or adjourn one or both of the Houses. He shall receive public ministers.
Article II, Section 3: [H]e shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed...	The President will execute and enforce the laws passed by Congress and commission officers.
Article II, Section 4: The President...shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.	The President, Vice President, or other civil officers can be removed from office for high crimes and misdemeanors.
Article IV, Section 4: The United States ... shall protect each of [the states] against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive ... against domestic violence.	The United States will protect the states from invasion or violence on application of the legislature or executive (if the legislature cannot be convened).
Article VI, Section 2: This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof ... shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound.	The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. All government officers will be bound by oath to support the Constitution.