Chapter 9 Vocab and Presidential Roles
Study Guide

Vocabulary -

Executive Branch: the branch of government responsible for executing, or carrying out, the law

Foreign Policy: the set of plans for guiding our nations relationships with other countries

Ambassadors: the official representatives to foreign governments

Executive Agreements: agreements with other countries that do not need Senate approval

Domestic Policy: a set of plans for dealing with national problems

Bureaucracy: an organization of government departments, agencies, and offices

Administration – a team of executive branch officials

Cabinet – an important group of policy advisers to the president

Treaties – formal agreements between nations

Executive Privilege – the right to keep some information secret from Congress and the courts
Roles of the President –

Chief Executive: In the role of Chief Executive it is the President's duty to make sure the laws are executed, or carried out. As Chief Executive, the President may also delegate his power through executive orders. Executive orders are rules and regulations governments must follow. The President may also appoint executive branch officials.

Commander in Chief: In the role of Commander in Chief the President is the leader of the armed forces. As Commander in Chief, the President is expected to set military goals and approve military tactics. The President may send troops to a foreign country for 60 days without the approval of Congress.

Chief Diplomat: In the role of Chief Diplomat the President is the most important representative of the United States in relations with other nations. As Chief Diplomat, the President leads in making foreign policy. This includes the President’s ability to make treaties with other countries, but Congress may reject these treaties. The President also has the power to appoint ambassadors and to make executive agreements.

Legislative Leader: In the role of Legislative Leader the President has a good deal of power to influence what laws will be made and how they will be enforced. As Legislative Leader, the President gives the State of the Union Address and helps to set domestic policy. The President has the power to veto bills that are not to his/her liking. Also, in the role of Legislative Leader, the President is responsible for making the budget.

Judicial Powers: As part of the system of checks and balances the President has some judicial powers. In this role, the President has the power to choose Supreme Court justices and other federal judges. These powers also include the ability to reduce the punishment of someone convicted of a crime in federal courts and to grant pardons.

Party Leader: In the role of Party Leader the President can use his/her power and prestige to support party goals or candidates. During election years, the President will give speeches and attend fundraisers to help support members of the party who are running for important offices.

Chief of State: In the role of Chief of State the President is expected to speak for the whole nation, expressing the values and goals of the American people. As Chief of State, the President greets visiting leaders and gives medals to citizens. In this role, the President stands for national unity and as a symbol of the United States of America.