

Expansion of Presidential Power

Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers.

1. In the original U.S. Constitution there were no term limits for elected officials. Today, presidents can serve no longer than two four-year terms. Presidential term limits were established by

- a. Twelfth Amendment
- b. Nineteenth Amendment
- c. Twenty-Second Amendment
- d. An act of Congress

2. Presidents wear many different hats. The president plays a number of important roles. Which role is being played in the following scenario?

“The president attended a big Hollywood fundraiser and broke records for most money raised in one night.”

- a. Chief Executive
- b. Commander-in-Chief
- c. Chief of Party
- d. Chief Legislator

3. Presidents wear many different hats. The president plays a number of important roles. Which role is being played in the following scenario?

“Late last night the president ordered a drone strike on a strategic enemy in Africa. Critics complained.”

- a. Chief Executive
- b. Commander-in-Chief
- c. Chief of Party
- d. Chief Legislator

4. Presidents wear many different hats. The president plays a number of important roles. Which role is being played in the following scenario?

“The president today met in the White House with the world champion Chicago Blackhawks. After putting on a jersey he joked that he had to decide between becoming president or becoming an NHL goalie.”

- a. Chief Executive
- b. Commander-in-Chief
- c. Chief of Party
- d. Chief of State

5. In Federalist #70 Alexander Hamilton wrote:

Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government...Every man the least conversant in Roman story, knows how often that republic was obliged to take refuge in the absolute power of a single man...

Hamilton was arguing for

- a. A strong president
- b. A king
- c. A weak president
- d. The abolition of the Executive Branch

6. President's wear many different hats. The president plays a number of important roles. Which role is being played in the following scenario?

"Last night in the president's State of the Union Address he advocated for universal health care."

- a. Chief Executive
- b. Commander-in-Chief
- c. Chief Diplomat
- d. Chief Legislator

7. President's wear many different hats. The president plays a number of important roles. Which role is being played in the following scenario?

"Next week the president is scheduled to join the Secretary of State in Geneva for Middle East peace talks."

- a. Chief Executive
- b. Commander-in-Chief
- c. Chief Diplomat
- d. Chief Legislator

8. The formal powers of president include all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Declare war
- b. Veto legislation
- c. Appoint federal judges
- d. Enforce laws

9. The U.S. Constitution may be ambiguous when it comes to enumerating presidential power but all of the following have given presidents great energy EXCEPT

- a. History
- b. Experience
- c. Contemporary events
- d. Longer terms

10. Arguably the greatest source of presidential power today is found in

- a. The Constitution
- b. The ability to overturn Court decisions
- c. Public opinion
- d. The ability to declare war