

EQ #16 – What does the Executive Branch do?

What is the role of the President in the Executive Branch?

Ch 13

What Does the Executive Branch Do?

- **Legislative Branch-** Makes laws
- **Executive Branch – Carries out & enforces laws passed by Congress.**
 - The President is head of the US government's executive branch.
 - The U.S. is a presidential democracy; our executive and legislative branches are SEPARATE.
- **Judicial Branch-** Interprets the laws and acts of government. Are they constitutional?

What are the key roles in the Executive Branch?

1. **The President**- Leads the country; is head of state, leader of the government and commander-in-chief of armed forces.
2. **Vice President** – Supports the P. Succeeds the P if s/he is unable to serve.
3. **Cabinet** – Advise the P and lead departments of the executive branch. Are nominated by P and approved by Senate.
4. **Federal Bureaucracy**- Millions of citizens who are employed by the federal gov't to carry out the work of enforcing laws.

The President of the U.S. (POTUS)

- There have been 45 Presidents
- Highly educated
- Elite
- All men (so far)
- **Obama** was first non-white P
- **Trump** is first with no previous formal political experience.



The President's Job

- Why is the job so difficult?
- Here is what former presidents have said...

The President's Job

Bill Clinton

"Being president is like running a cemetery; you've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening."

George W. Bush

"Eight years was awesome, and I was famous and I was powerful. But I have no desire for fame and power anymore."

Lyndon B. Johnson

"Being president is like being a jackass in a hailstorm. There's nothing to do but to stand there and take it."

The President's Job

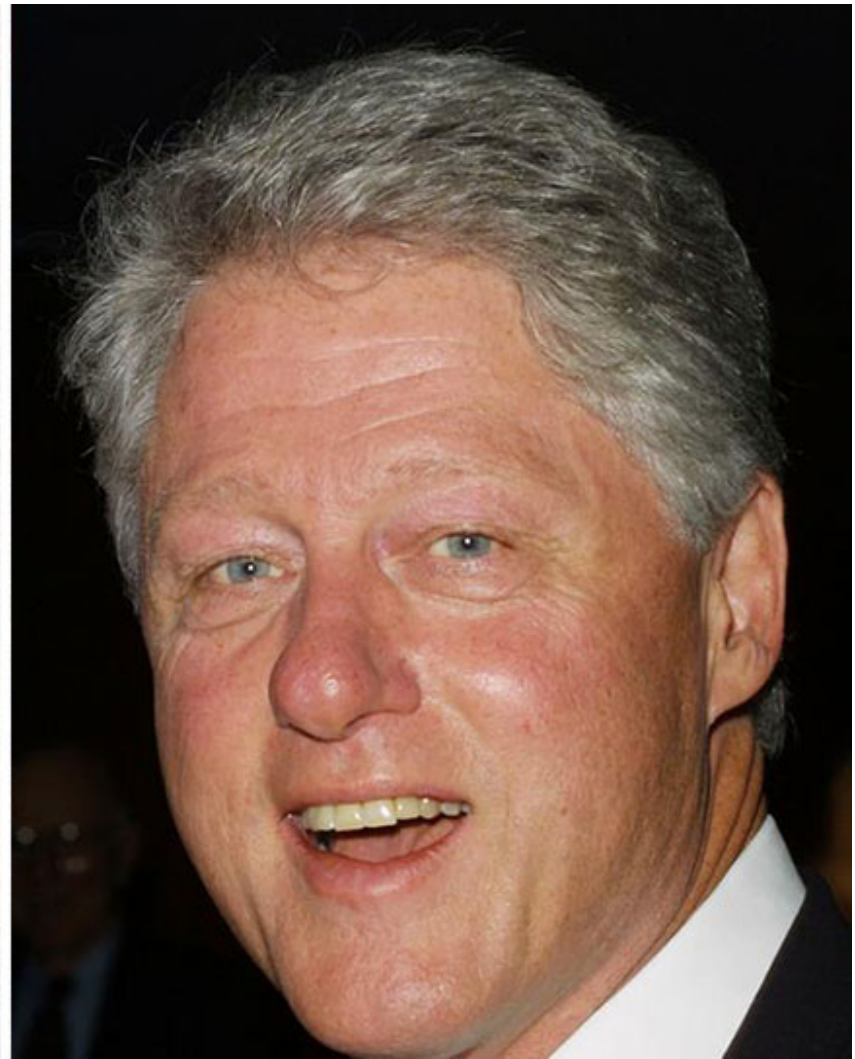
Martin Van Buren

"As to the Presidency, the two happiest days of my life were those of my entrance upon the office and my surrender of it."

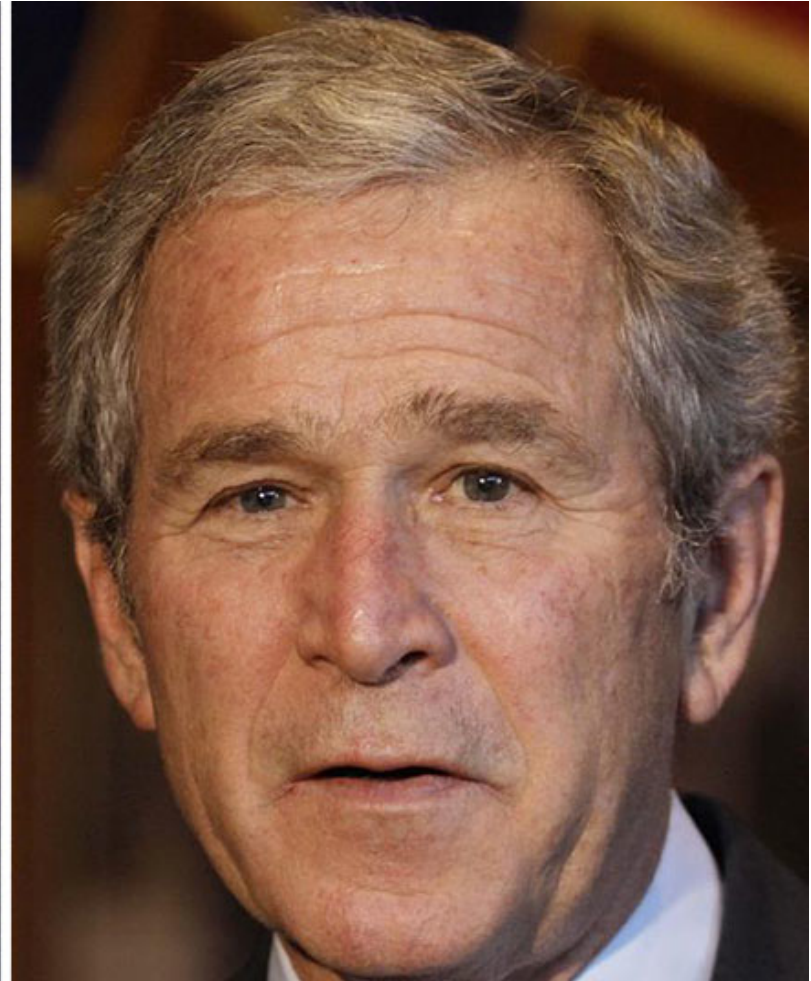
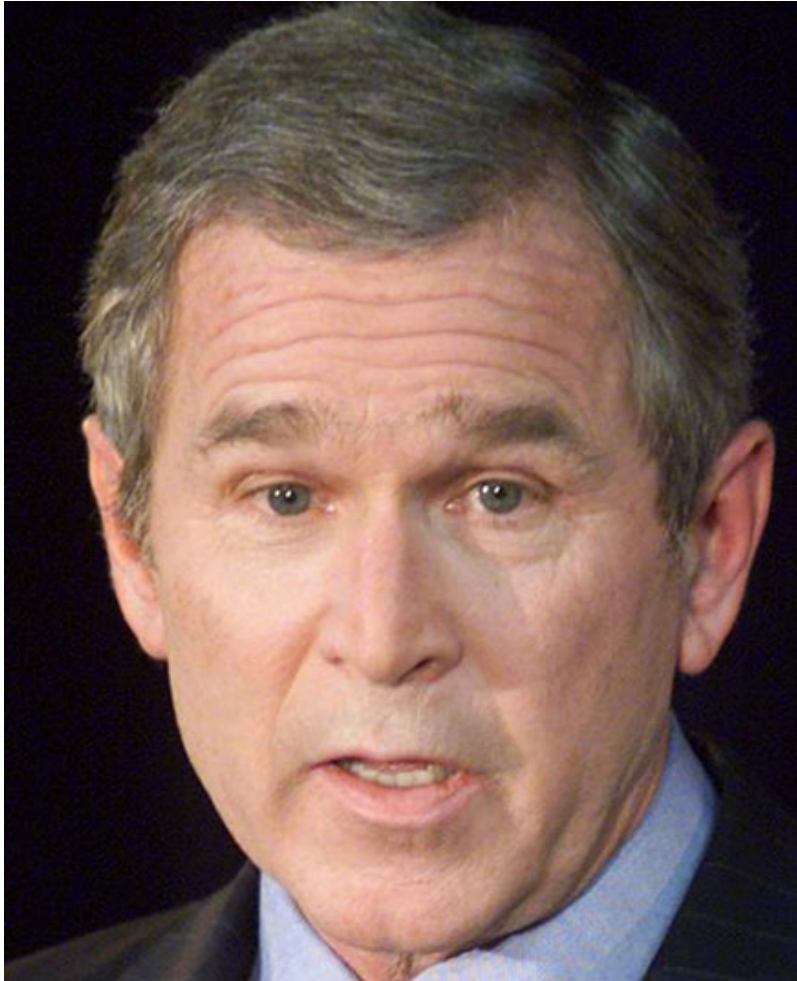
Harry Truman

"The Presidents who have done things, who were not afraid to act, have been the most abused... and I have topped them all in the amount of abuse I have received."

Bill Clinton 1992-2000



Bush at in 2000 and 2008



The President's Job-2008 & 2016



Why is the P's Job so Difficult?

- Inherent stress in leading one of the most powerful nations in the world today
- P is the single most identifiable member of government- is blamed for problems
- The job is difficult- crises/emergencies happen
- It isn't easy to please people!

Film Clip- What does the P Do?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KyvQuOHFvE&feature=youtu>

What are the roles of the President Today?

- The US President has many job responsibilities that require different skills. This is one of the significant reasons the job is so difficult.
- P must be a good LEADER (of people, the country and the military), MANAGER, VISIONARY, DIPLOMAT, MODEL CITIZEN

What are the Constitutional Qualifications for US President?

There are only THREE written requirements-

1. Must be “a natural born citizen” of the U.S.
2. Must be at least 35 years old
3. Must have lived in the U.S. for 14 years.

*There are **informal qualifications**, too.

-Highly educated, wealthy, national political experience, male(?)

Activity- President Approval

- <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/trump-approval-ratings/>
 1. What is P Trump's current approval and disapproval ratings? Is that higher or lower than you would have thought? Explain.
 2. What were Trump's highest and lowest ratings? When did each occur?
 3. Write TWO fun/interesting facts about the data you're reading about on this site. Consider looking at data from other P approval rates.
 4. **Reflect-** What do YOU think about the job P Trump is doing? Have your feelings changed since he was elected? Explain.

TUESDAY 11/19

- Finish EQ #16- What does the Executive Branch do? What is the P's role?

Warm-Up- The Exec Branch

1. What does the Executive Branch do / what is its MAIN job?
2. What are the FOUR parts / key players in the EXECUTIVE Branch?
3. How are the Executive and Legislative branches connected?

How Long is the Term?

- Each Presidential term is 4 years long.
- **What is the 22nd Amendment (1951) – It set a presidential term limit at TWO terms maximum or 10 years (if a VP succeeds to the presidency).**
- FDR had violated the custom of two terms by running and winning **FOUR** terms. He died during his fourth.



Pay / Benefits

- Congress sets the President's pay
- Salary is \$400,000/year (as of 2001)
- Plus a \$50,000 expense account
- \$100,000 non taxable travel account
- \$19,000 entertainment account

What is the role of the VP?

- The VP's most important role is to take over if the President is unable to serve.
- The VP also serves as the President of the Senate
- The VP has other ceremonial duties and assists the President.

Presidential Succession (13.2)

- **What is Succession?**: The plan to fill the vacancy of the office of the President should he leave office through death, resignation or impeachment.
- Had been customary to have VP take over but wasn't official

Presidential Succession Act of 1947

- Law passed by Congress, it sets up order of succession if President dies, resigns or becomes disabled...

1. Vice President

2. Speaker of the House

3. President pro tempore of the Senate

4. Secretary of State

Presidential Succession Act of 1947

5. Secretary of the Treasury
6. Secretary of Defense
7. Attorney General
8. Secretary of the Interior
9. Secretary of Agriculture
10. Secretary of Commerce
11. Secretary of Labor...

What if the President is sick?

- Examples:

- **Eisenhower:** suffered heart attack in 1955, ileitis in 1956, and mild stroke in 1955
- **James Garfield:** lingered for 80 days before he died of an assassin's bullet in 1881
- **Woodrow Wilson** suffered a stroke in 1919 and was unable to run for his second term
- **Ronald Reagan** was gravely wounded in an assassination attempt in 1981

What is the 25th Amendment (1967)?

- Outlines what happens in case President becomes disabled while in office.

Under the 25th Amendment, the VP becomes acting President if

- President tells Congress he can't do his job, or
- VP and a majority of the cabinet tell Congress that the President can't do his job.

Vice President

VP has just two duties in original Constitution:

- To serve as President of the Senate
- To help decide if President is disabled
- Most importantly, as of 25th Amendment, he can succeed to the Presidency due to death or resignation of the P.

Why is job of VP so lightly regarded?

- Very few stated duties in the Constitution.
- Political parties often pick VP candidates to “balance the ticket” and win the election; not necessarily for their abilities.
- VP’s role is thought of as symbolic

Vice Presidents Who Succeeded to the Presidency

Successor	Reason for Succession
John Tyler	Death (pneumonia) of William Henry Harrison, April 4, 1841
Millard Fillmore	Death (gastroenteritis) of Zachary Taylor, July 9, 1850
Andrew Johnson	Death (assassination) of Abraham Lincoln, April 15, 1865
Chester A. Arthur	Death (assassination) of James A. Garfield, September 19, 1881
Theodore Roosevelt	Death (assassination) of William McKinley, September 14, 1901
Calvin Coolidge	Death (undisclosed illness) of Warren G. Harding, August 2, 1923
Harry S Truman	Death (cerebral hemorrhage) of Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 12, 1945
Lyndon B. Johnson	Death (assassination) of John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963
Gerald R. Ford	Resignation of Richard M. Nixon, August 9, 1974

