

Power With Limits

Article II gives the president important duties and places checks on those powers.

CE.2.c “explaining the particular role and powers of the executive branch as explained in Article II of the Constitution of the United States;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action or power Article II gives the president. Circle each phrase that shows how another branch limits presidential power.

The Executive Branch in Action

- ① The executive branch carries out the nation’s laws. Article II places its executive power in a president of the United States. The president is not a lawmaker who can create any rule alone. Instead, the president directs executive departments and officers as they put laws into action. Before serving, the president takes an oath to faithfully execute the office and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. The vice president is also part of the executive branch and may become president if a vacancy occurs.
- ② Article II names the president commander in chief of the armed forces. This role lets the president direct military operations, but Congress has powers to declare war and provide funding. The president may negotiate treaties with other nations, but two thirds of senators present must concur before a treaty is made. The president nominates ambassadors, federal judges, and other officers. Most major appointments require the Senate’s advice and consent. Article II also allows the president to grant pardons for federal offenses, except in cases of impeachment.
- ③ These powers do not make the president unlimited. Congress writes laws and controls federal spending, so the president must carry out laws Congress passes. The House of Representatives can impeach a president, and the Senate holds the impeachment trial. Federal courts can decide whether government actions follow the Constitution. Article II also requires the president to give Congress information about the State of the Union and recommend measures the president judges necessary. These duties connect the branches while keeping power divided.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the president's main job when Congress passes a law?

2 What does the president do as commander in chief, and what two powers does Congress have that limit this role?

3 How does the Constitution limit the president's power to make a treaty?

4 Name two ways other branches can check the president's power, using the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A president wants to send an ambassador to negotiate a treaty with another nation. Write exactly three sentences explaining one presidential power, the Senate's role in choosing the ambassador, and the Senate's role in approving the treaty.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action or power Article II gives the president. Circle each phrase that shows how another branch limits presidential power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the president's main job when Congress passes a law?	The president directs executive departments and officers to carry out, or put into action, the laws Congress passes.
2	What does the president do as commander in chief, and what two powers does Congress have that limit this role?	The president directs military operations. Congress can declare war and provide funding.
3	How does the Constitution limit the president's power to make a treaty?	Two thirds of the senators present must concur before a treaty is made.
4	Name two ways other branches can check the president's power, using the passage.	Answers include: the Senate gives advice and consent to major appointments; Congress writes laws and controls spending; the House can impeach; the Senate holds an impeachment trial; federal courts can decide whether actions follow the Constitution.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The president can nominate an ambassador to represent the United States. The Senate must give its advice and consent before the ambassador takes office. If the nations make a treaty, two thirds of the senators present must agree to it.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately explains Article II powers and constitutional checks. For the open response, accept three sentences that correctly address nomination, Senate consent for the ambassador, and two-thirds Senate concurrence for the treaty.