

The Seven Roles of the President

The job of the U.S. President is really seven jobs in one. What are those responsibilities? Read about them below. Then answer the following questions.

A. Chief of the Executive Branch

The President oversees **federal** (national) agencies, appointing their directors and creating policies to determine their goals during his term. Presidents also appoint federal judges and Supreme Court Justices.

B. Head of State

The President represents the U.S. at official functions like meeting with the leaders of foreign nations. Presidents can also promote U.S. ideals through speeches and awards for causes the President finds important.

C. Foreign Policy Leader

The President oversees **treaties** (agreements) with other countries. Presidents also direct aid to other countries, and set policies that affect U.S. relations with other nations.

D. Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces

The Constitution makes the President head of the U.S. military. Presidents may send troops into action, but only Congress can declare war.

E. Legislative Leader

Congress is responsible for passing laws, but Presidents must approve or **veto** (reject) those laws. Congress can override a President's veto by a two-thirds majority vote in both houses.

F. Economic Leader

The President makes plans to make sure the federal government's budget is as profitable as possible. These plans can include creating jobs or asking Congress to raise or lower federal taxes.

G. Political Party Leader

As head of his political party, a President can help members of his party run for office, and help the party raise money for campaigns. He can also appoint party members to important positions.

- ___ 1. President Ronald Reagan appoints Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court.
- ___ 2. President Woodrow Wilson signs the Treaty of Versailles to end World War I.
- ___ 3. President George W. Bush sends Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to try to broker peace in Israel and Palestine.
- ___ 4. President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act into law.
- ___ 5. President Bill Clinton asks poet Maya Angelou to speak at his first presidential inauguration.
- ___ 6. President George W. Bush appoints Colin Powell as Secretary of State.
- ___ 7. President Ronald Reagan orders U.S. troops to invade Grenada.
- ___ 8. President Franklin D. Roosevelt moves the U.S. economy away from the gold standard.
- ___ 9. President Richard M. Nixon forges new financial relations with China on a diplomatic visit.
- ___ 10. President Barack Obama campaigns for fellow Democrats in runoff elections after winning the presidency.