**The Many Hats of the President Activity**

**The jobs or “hats” of the President:**

* **Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces:**
* The head of the Armed forces: The president can authorize the use of troops overseas without declaring war
* Sending the military to fight in a foreign country: FDR sending troops to Japan during WWII/Lyndon B. Johnson sending troops to Vietnam.
* **Chief of State:**
* Ceremonious symbol representing the United States: The Face of the Nation
* Annual wreath laying at the Tomb of the unknown soldier/Pardoning a Turkey around Thanksgiving time
* Speaking to the Nation on Topics of interest
* **Chief Executive:**
* Acts as the administrative Head of the Government: meeting with the cabinet, signing bills, and appointing heads of departments
* Declares States of Emergency/Executive Orders/Appoints people to positions on the Supreme Court and Federal Departments with the approval of the Senate/Has the power to grant pardons
* **Chief Diplomat**:
* Negotiates on behalf of the United States with foreign governments
* Appointing ambassadors.
* Signs treaties with foreign Nations/Truman signing the Paris Peace Treaties ending WII
* **Chief Party Leader:**
* Head of his or her Political Party
* Raises money for political party and supports party members running for office.
* **Chief Legislator:**
* Executes the instructions of Congress/Recommends legislation to congress
* Has the power to veto bills passed by Congress

**The Many Hats of the President Activity**

**Roles of the President-Handout (pg. 364-365)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hat** | **Responsibilities** |
| **Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces** |  |
| **Chief of State**  |  |
| **Chief Executive** |  |
| **Chief Diplomat**  |  |
| **Chief of Party**  |  |
| **Chief Legislator** |  |

**The Many Hats of the President Activity**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions using your completed “Roles of the President” handout chart from class and the U.S. Constitution (pg. C2 to C23)

1. In which of the areas of presidential responsibility does the Congress exercise “checks and balances”? How do they do each of these?
2. As chief legislator the president gives a State of the Union message annually. Can he/she decide to forego that message? Why or why not?
3. In what circumstance does the U.S. Constitution allow the president to make agreements with other countries that do not require congressional approval?
4. In which role would the president exercise an “inherent power”? Give an example of an inherent power.
5. What act was passed to limit the power of the president as Commander-in-Chief?
6. What special powers are available to the presidents that are not available to the other branches of government?
7. In which role would the president make use of the media to fulfill that function? Describe how he would do this. How has President Obama used this in regards to his proposed health care reform? Evaluate his use of the media compared to George Bush (#43).
8. Which of the hats of the president are actual Constitutional Powers?
9. Which of the hats of the president are Statutory Powers?
10. In what ways do the roles of the president illustrate the flexibility of our Constitution?
11. The history of executive privilege dates back to 1796, when President George Washington refused a request by the House for certain documents. Given the changes that have taken place since that time, should executive privilege be eliminated? Or should it be retained as an even more necessary function today than it was at that time?