

Understanding the Roles of the President



Being the President of the United States is a difficult job that requires the president to fulfill many duties and carefully exercise the powers entrusted to the office. There are **four** key roles that this activity will focus on. The way different presidents have fulfilled these roles has evolved throughout history.

Part 1: Read the essay in the Classroom Resource Packet and define the *four* key roles of the president:

Commander in Chief: _____

Chief Executive: _____

Chief Legislator: _____

Chief Diplomat: _____

Part 2: Read the following examples of presidential actions and determine what role is being fulfilled. If there are multiple roles, list all those that apply – being president is a complex job!

<i>Action</i>	<i>Role</i>
1) The president signs a bill from Congress, making it a law.	1) _____
2) The president hosts a State Dinner for the leader of a foreign nation	2) _____
3) The president holds a cabinet meeting to discuss education and public health policies	3) _____
4) The president meets with U.S. military leaders to make a wartime decision.	4) _____
5) The president works with the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Interior, and officials from Canada to protect wildlife on the U.S./Canadian border.	5) _____
6) The president addresses Congress with the State of the Union.	6) _____

ROLES OF THE PRESIDENT



Part 3: Choose a president from [the WHHA website](#) and look at their accomplishments and challenges faced during their presidency. What events and actions fall into each role? Are there any events of their presidency that could cover multiple roles? Use the chart below to organize the ways they fulfilled the roles of the president. If an event applies to more than one role, put it in all applicable boxes.

President Chosen: _____

Years in office: _____

Commander in Chief	Chief Diplomat
Chief Executive	Chief Legislator

Bonus activity: Create a “Help Wanted” ad for a new president. Identify the skills a new president would need to successfully carry out the office and make sure they are clearly listed and explained. You can make your ad a large sign, or the size of a newspaper clipping – and make sure it is eye-catching!

Alternatively, pretend YOU are running for president! Create a campaign sign, song, slogan, or other advertisement that shows the American people how you are ready to fulfill the roles of the president!

Share your “Help Wanted” ad or campaign materials with us at [@WhiteHouseHstry](#) or education@whha.org