

Branches of Government Gallery Walk Debriefing Sheet

Directions: As you view the image sets, answer the questions included on this debriefing sheet.

Image Set #1: The U.S. Capitol Building & U.S. Congress

1. What two groups meet inside of the U.S. Capitol?
2. Based on the excerpt from the U.S. Constitution and the description of the U.S. Capitol building, what is the role of Congress? (What does Congress do?)
3. How many Senators are in the U.S. Senate? How many representatives are in the U.S. House?
4. Look at the statue "Justice & History" that sits above the Senate entrance. Make a list of the symbols, objects, and words included in the statue:
5. Look at the "Statue of Freedom," which sits on top of the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. Make a list of the symbols, objects, and words included in the statue:

Image Set #2: Members of Congress

1. How long are the terms for representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives?

2. How long are the terms for Senators in the U.S. Senate?
3. Who/what group do U.S. House members represent?
4. Who/what group do U.S. Senators represent?
5. Take a look at John F. Kennedy's campaign poster. What office was he running for at the time? According to the slogan, who did he claim to serve and represent?
6. Who was Shirley Chisholm? Why is she a notable historic member of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Note: All three of the members of Congress shown ran for President of the United States. Two of the members of Congress shown went on to become U.S. Presidents: John F. Kennedy and George H.W. Bush. Consider this as you learn more about the branches of government and the opportunities for leadership amongst the different branches.

Image Set #3: Passing & Signing Legislation

1. Look at the scan of the first page of the Voting Rights Act. What are the words in the top margin of the page? What are the words in bold script letters at the top of the page?
2. Look at the image and caption describing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. What were the effects of this law?

3. Look at the image on the right. Who is signing the Voting Rights Act into law?
4. Based on the images from this set, who/what branch passes laws? Who/what branch signs laws into action?

Image Set #4: Declaring War

1. Look at the image with the title "Sixty-Fifth Congress of the United States of America" and the text excerpt from the U.S. Constitution. According to these two items, what branch of government has the power to declare war?
2. According to the written caption, what groups voted in favor of going to war with Germany?
3. According to the written caption, what was President Wilson's role in declaring war on Germany and entering World War I? What does this tell you about how Presidents might influence Congressional declarations of war?
4. Review the written caption. What is the President's role with the Armed Forces?

5. Based on the written caption, how has the President's role in declaring war changed since the Vietnam War?

Image Set #5: Relationships & Treaties with Foreign Countries

1. According to the Constitution, what branches of government are involved in negotiating and passing treaties with foreign nations?
2. Look at the image of President Nixon in China. What is the role of the President as "Chief Diplomat"?
3. Look at the *New York Times* headline and the included caption. What majority is required in the Senate to ratify a treaty?
4. Based on the *New York Times* headline, did the U.S. Senate have enough votes to ratify the Treaty of Versailles?

Image Set #6: Using the Veto & Overriding the Vetoes

1. What does it mean when the President uses a veto?

2. What happens after the President vetoes Congressional legislation?

3. Make a list of the action that happened during the passage of the Freedom of Information Act (1975). The first step is filled out for you:
 - a. The House of Representatives & the Senate both pass a bill strengthening the Freedom of Information Act.

 - b.

 - c.

 - d.

Image Set #7: Running for President

1. According to the Constitution, what are the qualifications to run for President of the United States?

2. What is the length of a single term for the President of the United States?

3. According to the 22nd Amendment, what are the limits on how long a President can serve?

Image Set #8: The Electoral College

1. The quote from the Constitution says states will have “a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress.” Complete the diagram below to show how a state’s number of electors in the Electoral College is determined:

_____ + _____ = A State’s Number of Electors

2. According to the written caption, how did the Electoral College process represent a compromise?
3. Look at the Electoral College map. Which state has the most votes in the Electoral College?
4. Look at the Electoral College map. Which states have the least votes in the Electoral College?
5. How does a Presidential candidate get elected to become the next President of the United States?

Image Set #9: Presidential Cabinet

1. What is the role of the Cabinet?

2. These members of the Cabinet also represent members of the executive branch. Take a look at the ring diagram which shows some of the members of the President's Cabinet. List at least 4 of the members of the Cabinet:

Image Set #10: Executive Orders

1. What is an Executive Order?
2. How did President Roosevelt enforce Executive Order 8802?
3. What appears to be happening in the image from 1943?

Image Set #11: Federal Pardons

1. What is a pardon?
2. Who has the power to issue a pardon?

3. Based on the newspaper headline, give an example of a famous presidential pardon:

Image Set #12: State of the Union Address

1. The State of the Union Address is a speech. Who delivers the State of the Union Address?
2. Who is the audience for the State of the Union Address?
3. Based on the photos in this image set, what branches of government interact during the State of the Union Address?

Image Set #13: The Supreme Court

1. Look at the photograph of the "Guardian or Authority of Law" statue. List the important words, symbols, and objects in the statue:
2. Based on the excerpt from the Constitution, as well as the statues like "Contemplation of Justice" and "Guardian or Authority of Law," what is the purpose of the Supreme Court?

Image Set #14: Supreme Court Justices

1. Look at the image of the Supreme Court chamber. Make a list that describes the room in detail:
2. Read the biographies of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia. How long do Supreme Court justices serve?
3. Read the biographies of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia. Who/what branch of government appoints Supreme Court justices?
4. Based on the photo and caption of Justice Ginsburg at her confirmation hearing, who/what branch of government controls the confirmation of Supreme Court justices?

Image Set #15: Judicial Review

1. According to Cornell Law School, what is judicial review?
2. Look at the *New York Times* headline from 1967. How did the Supreme Court use judicial review in the *Loving v. Virginia* case?

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3. Look at the photograph from 1954. Where are the mother and daughter sitting?
4. Look at the photograph from 1954. What does the headline of the newspaper say?
5. How did the Supreme Court use judicial review in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case?

Image Set #16: Views of the Supreme Court

1. What phrases are engraved on the front and back of the Supreme Court?
2. What is the significance of the "Guardian of Authority of Law" statue looking out from the Supreme Court to the Capitol building (where Congress meets)?

Image Set #17: Impeachment

1. What does it mean to “impeach a government official”?
2. According to the Constitution, who/what branch of government has the power to impeach?
3. Look at the drawing of Thaddeus Stevens announcing the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. What adjectives or emotion words would you use to describe the image?
4. Look at the ticket to President Johnson’s conviction trial in the Senate. Why do you think the American public might be interested in attending an impeachment or conviction trial of a U.S. President?

Summarizing Questions

1. Based on the images & texts from the gallery walk, what are some of the responsibilities of the legislative branch? What special powers does this branch have?

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2. Based on the images & texts from the gallery walk, what are some of the responsibilities of the executive branch? What special powers does this branch have?

3. Based on the images & texts from the gallery walk, what are some of the responsibilities of the judicial branch? What special powers does this branch have?

4. Summarize how the branches check the power of the other branches. (Think about our system of checks and balances. How does one branch prevent the others from becoming too powerful?)