

**Fenimore Art Museum**  
**The President of the United States through the Lens of Pete Souza**

Activity Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity 1**

**ARTICLE 2: SECTION 1 (EXECUTIVE BRANCH)**

**What does it say?**

1.) The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows:

2.) Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

3.) The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for President; and if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said House shall in like manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each state having one vote; A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of the President, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the Senate shall choose from them by ballot the Vice President.

4.) The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

5.) No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty five years, and been fourteen Years a resident within the United States.

6.) In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

7.) The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

8.) Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

**What does it mean?** Record your responses in the space provided. Responses must be given in your own words, not a simple quotation or restating of the source.

1. What does Clause 1 declare?
  - a. How long is the term the President may serve?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What happens if the President dies while in office or can no longer serve as President?
  
2. Clause 2 establishes what process for electing the president.
  - a. How many votes does each state get?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How is the number of votes per state determined?
  
3. Clause 3 established the procedures for the Electoral College and for Election Day.
  - a. What are the procedures?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What happens if there is a tie or no one candidate receives enough electoral votes?
  
4. Clause 4 allows Congress to choose what?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Clause 5 lists the qualifications to be the President. What are these requirements, which requirement do you think is the most important one? Explain your answer. do you think there is one requirement that is more important than another?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. According to clause 6, in the case of the President's death, resignation, or inability to perform duties, who takes over the responsibilities of the Presidency?

Commented [MG1]: Please Check the wording here

7. Clause 7 refers to compensation for the President and refers to emolument.
  - a. What is the compensation for the President?
  
  - b. What do you think the President should receive as compensation?
  
  - c. What is an emolument? What do you think the purpose of this clause is?
  
8. Clause 8 requires the President to take the Presidential Oath when being sworn into office.
  - a. In that oath, what does the President swear to do?
  
  - b. What do you think was the purpose for the Presidential Oath?
  
  - c. What do you think should happen if the President does not uphold this oath?



2. Clause 2 outlines the President's power to make treaties and appoint officials.
  - a. What power does the president have to make treaties and appoint officials, and how is that power limited?
  
3. Clause 3 allows the President to have what specific powers?
  - a. How could a President take advantage of the powers provided in Clause 3?

### Activity 3

#### ROLES OF THE PRESIDENT

At any given time, of course, only one person is the President of the United States. The office, with all of its awesome powers and duties, belongs to that one individual. Whoever that person may be, he—and most likely someday she—must fill several different roles, and all of them at the same time. The President is simultaneously (1) chief of state, (2) chief executive, (3) chief diplomat, (4) chief legislator, (5) commander in chief, (6) chief economist, (7) chief of party, and (8) chief citizen.

**(1) Chief of State-** To begin with, the President is chief of state, the ceremonial head of the government of the United States. He or she is, then, the symbol of all the people of the nation—in President William Howard Taft's words, "the personal embodiment and representative of their dignity and majesty." In many countries, the chief of state reigns but does not rule. That is certainly true of the queens of England, Denmark, and the Netherlands; the kings of Norway, Sweden, and Belgium; the emperor of Japan; and the presidents of Italy and Germany. It is just as certainly not true of the President of the United States. The President both reigns and rules.

**(2) Chief Executive-** The President is the nation's chief executive, vested by the Constitution with "the executive Power" of the United States. That power is immensely broad in domestic affairs as well as foreign affairs. Indeed, the American presidency is often described as "the most powerful office in the world." It is his or her job to oversee one of the largest governmental machines the world has ever known. Today, the President directs an administration that employs some 2.7 million civilians and spends some \$3.8 trillion a year. But remember, the President is not all-powerful. He or she lives in an environment filled with constitutional checks and balances in which there are many practical limits on what he or she can and cannot do.

**(3) Chief Diplomat-** Every President is also the nation's chief diplomat, the main architect of American foreign policy and the nation's chief spokesman to the rest of the world. "I make foreign policy," President Truman once said—and he did. Everything the President says and does is closely followed, both here and abroad.

**(4) Chief Legislator-** The President is also the nation's chief legislator, the principal author of its public policies. Most often, it is the President who sets the overall shape of the congressional agenda—initiating, suggesting, requesting, insisting, and demanding that Congress enact most of the major pieces of legislation that it does. The President and Congress do sometimes clash, and the President does not always get his or her way on Capitol Hill. Still, working with Congress occupies a major part of the President's time.

**(5) Commander in Chief-** In close concert with his or her role in foreign affairs, the Constitution also makes the President the commander in chief of the nation's armed forces. The 1.5 million men and women in uniform and all of the nation's military might are subject to the President's direct and immediate control. The Constitution does give Congress some significant powers in foreign affairs and over the military, but the President has long since become dominant in both fields.

**(6) Chief Economist-** Some observers have suggested that modern Presidents must also be the nation's chief economist. That is, the President is expected to keep a close eye on the nation's economy and to take immediate and effective action when conditions dictate. Since the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in 1989, and paralleling the rapid expansion of Asian economies (especially those of China and India), the management of America's trade relationships has been an expanding aspect of presidential responsibilities. This change has created unique challenges for the President. Opening foreign markets for American goods requires lowering or removing trade restrictions and tariffs on goods imported into the United States. As chief economist, the President must constantly balance many conflicting demands, including those of consumers, labor unions, and manufacturers. At the same time, the President must remain

ever sensitive to the effect that American economic policies can have on our relationships with countries around the world.

**(7) Chief of Party-** The President is, automatically, the chief of the party, the acknowledged leader of the political party that controls the executive branch—and is virtually unchallengeable in that role. As you know, parties are not mentioned in the Constitution, but they do have a vital place in the workings of the American governmental system. Much of the real power and influence of the President depends on his or her ability to play this critical role.

**(8) Chief Citizen-** The office also automatically makes its occupant the nation's chief citizen. The President is expected to be “the representative of all the people.” He or she is expected to take the high road and champion the public interest against the many different and competing private interests. “The presidency,” said Franklin Roosevelt, “is not merely an administrative office. That is the least of it. It is, preeminently, a place of moral leadership.”

### PETE SOUZA: TWO PRESIDENTS, ONE PHOTOGRAPHER

The iconic photographs of Pete Souza are well known from his tenure as Chief Official White House Photographer for President Obama. What many people do not remember is that Souza was also an Official White House Photographer for President Reagan.

**Directions:** Using the eight images below from his collection, you will be labeling and explaining what role of the president is being shown in the photo, and back your response with details from the photo and your knowledge of social studies.

### Using Photographs to Show the Roles of the President

Photographs of President Reagan and President Obama taken by Pete Souza show them carrying out their official duties as President. Look at the pictures below. Which President is in the photo? What role, or job, is the President portraying in the picture? Explain your response with evidence from the reading and the photo.

**Commented [MG2]:** We need to choose 8 images from the exhibit to include in this lesson. Students will label and explain what role of the president is being shown.



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Support your response:



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Support your response:



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Support your response:



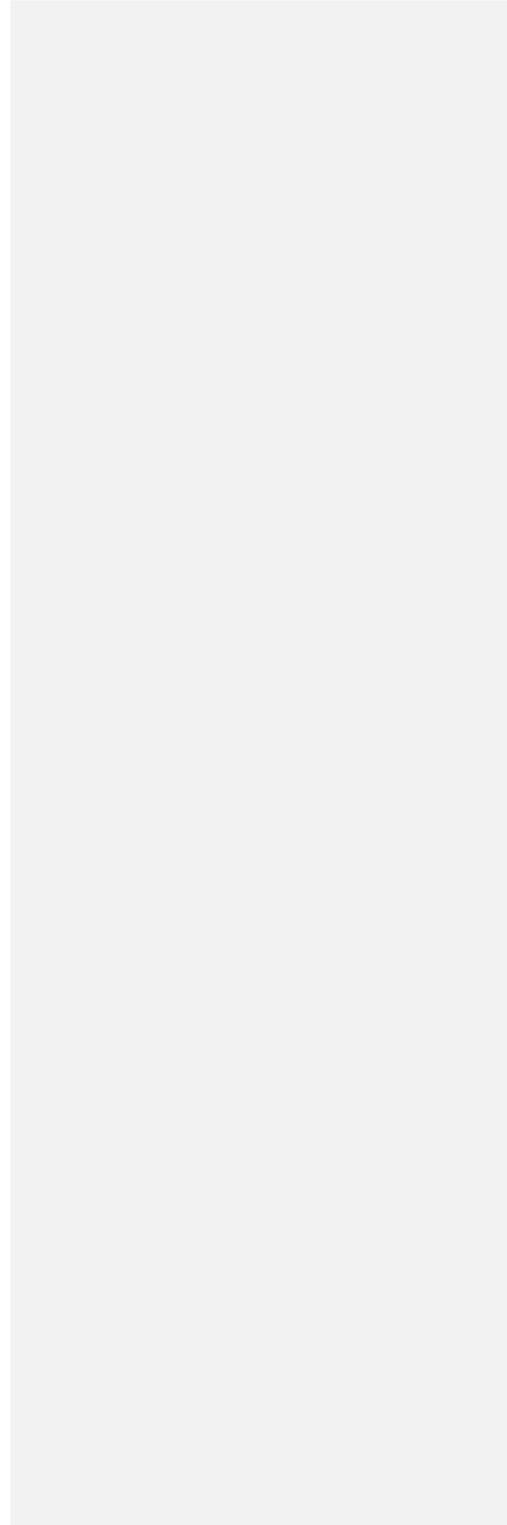
President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Support your response:



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Support your response:



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Support your response:





President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your response:



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your response:



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your response:



President \_\_\_\_\_  
Role/Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your response:

**Directions:**

1. Using the Pete Souza photographs provided in Activity 2, in the Fenimore video (or video transcript), and the Fenimore Exhibit photographs, compare Republican Ronald Reagan and Democrat Barack Obama. Identify any similarities and differences in how each man carried out his roles as president. You may do this using a Venn diagram, or other graphic organizer.
2. Based on the photographs of Pete Souza and Article 2 of the US Constitution, what conclusion can you draw on the relationship between party affiliation and how each president fulfilled his responsibilities?
3. How would you assess the importance and value of an official White House photographer like Pete Souza? Explain your response.
4. Select two specific powers granted to the President of the United States as outlined in the US Constitution and determine the ways you would improve or change how the President carries out two specific powers. You may use President Reagan, President Obama, or any other US President in crafting your response.