

Powers, Checks, and Balances

Executive's relationship to legislative

- ✓ The president may recommend legislation (which must then be introduced by a member of the Senate or House).
- ✓ He can approve or veto legislation that has passed both houses of Congress.
- ✓ He can enter into treaties with foreign countries, and commit U.S. troops abroad.
- ✓ He also has the power to enforce the laws of the United States.

Executive's role with judicial

- ✓ The president appoints Supreme Court justices and other federal judges.

Judicial's role with executive

- ✓ The federal courts can review the constitutionality of executive branch actions.

External checks

External checks can include the general public, interest groups, political parties, the international community, and the media.

Legislative's relationship to executive

- ✓ Congress may introduce and pass legislation.
- ✓ With a two-thirds vote of both houses Congress can override a presidential veto.
- ✓ The Senate must confirm the president's nominations for the Supreme Court, cabinet and certain other offices.
- ✓ Treaties entered into by the president must be ratified by Congress.
- ✓ Official declarations of war are made by Congress, who may refuse to appropriate funding for continued military actions initiated by the president.
- ✓ Congress oversees executive branch functions, and can impeach the president.

Judicial's role with legislative

- ✓ Federal courts can review the constitutionality of acts of Congress.

Legislative's role with judicial

- ✓ Congress establishes the courts (except for the Supreme Court, established by the Constitution) and their jurisdiction (the kinds of cases they can hear).
- ✓ Congress may overturn court decisions interpreting federal laws by passing new legislation.
- ✓ Congress has the authority to impeach judges.

