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# CRASH COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## EPISODE 11: PRESIDENTIAL POWER

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### TIMESTAMPED STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. What is the view from the right about the Constitution? (1:05)
2. What is the view from the left about the Constitution? (1:26)
3. List two requirements to be President of the U.S. (2:02)
4. Who chooses the President? (2:15)
5. Why was this system for electing the President set up? (2:28)
6. The President has powers in five broad categories. List them. (3:06)
7. What defines a President's formal powers? (3:16)
8. What else are formal powers called? (3:24)
9. What title does the President have that relates to his military powers? (3:44)
10. List three foreign policy powers the President has. (4:26)
11. What Presidential speech appears on television early each year? (4:55)
12. List two legislative powers held by the President. (5:13)
13. List two judicial powers held by the President. (5:29)
14. Why did the Framers give the President such limited formal powers? (5:38)
15. What has happened to Presidential power over the course of the last 200+ years? (5:47)

#### Extra Credit or Discussion Question

- Does your view of the Constitution adhere more to the view on the left or the right?
- Should military service be a requirement to become President?
- "Most citizens would agree that protecting the country from foreign invasion is the number one job of government." In your opinion, what are the top three jobs government should do? Feel free to place the cited "number one" anywhere on your list -- or leave it off.
- What things do modern Presidents do that appear to go beyond their formal powers as explained in the video?

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# CRASH COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## EPISODE 12: PRESIDENTIAL POWER, PART 2

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### STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. Some of the President's powers do not appear within the written text of the Constitution. What are these powers called?
2. What military power was given to Congress as a way to check Presidential power?
3. What has been true during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries most of the times the President has sent troops into conflict?
4. Why did the War Powers Resolution not end up being a very effective check on the President's military powers?
5. Executive agreements look like treaties but aren't, and unlike treaties, they don't have to be ratified by 2/3 of the Senate. Where in the Constitution are executive agreements authorized?
6. Because the President appoints the cabinet, or heads of executive branch departments, he assumes a specific inherent power. What is it?
7. What informal powers does the President have to influence the legislative process?
8. Why would Congress willingly give its lawmaking power to the President?
9. The President's most important legislative power is the ability to give executive orders. What are these?
10. Other than by another executive order, how else can these orders be cancelled?
11. What huge disadvantage does an executive order have, compared to a regular law?
12. What is "executive privilege?"
13. In what landmark Supreme Court case did the judicial branch overrule a President's efforts to claim executive privilege?
14. What usually happened once a President has established a new, implied power?

### Extra Credit Questions / Discussion Prompts

- Congress and the President share military powers in that only Congress can declare war, but the President is the one who decides when and where troops will be sent into conflict. Is this the best way to organize the use of military powers? If not, how would you arrange them differently?
- There is potential for Presidents to abuse their powers and hide the evidence by claiming executive privilege. Should there be strict limits on a President's ability to make these claims? How could such limits be implemented? (Remember the old adage: that if you set up a guardian, you then have to worry about who will guard the guardian.)