

Chief Executives and Bureaucracies

What qualities do modern presidents need to fulfill their many roles?

Vocabulary Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers:

reprieve	bureaucracy
pardon	pocket veto
cabinet	administration
executive order	whistle-blower

PREVIEW

Carefully examine the appointments in the daily diary of a modern president. Then, answer these questions:

1. What observations can you make about the president's schedule on this day?
2. Why do you think the president has so many different types of appointments?
3. Based on this daily diary, what are some of the president's roles and responsibilities?
4. What qualities do you think the president needs to fulfill these many roles?

READING NOTES

Complete the given tasks as you read each section.

Section 1

Compare the job descriptions of national, state, and local chief executives by completing a table like the one below.

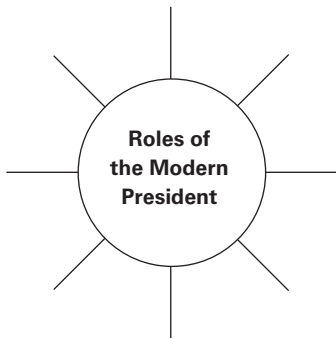
Chief Executives				
Level of Government	Title	Qualifications (formal and informal)	How are they elected?	How can they be removed from office?
National				
State				
Local				

Section 2

1. Briefly explain how one of the presidents described in this section defined or exercised the powers of the presidency.
2. In what ways do you think presidents today are more powerful today than they were in the past?

Section 3

1. Describe the roles of the modern president by completing a spoke diagram like the one below. For each role, identify at least three powers or responsibilities and create a simple symbol.



2. What checks does the president have on the legislative and judicial branches?

Section 4

Fill in a table like the one below by summarizing the main function of each group in the executive branch. Include at least two examples of individuals, departments, or agencies within each group.

The President			
White House Staff	Executive Office of the President	Executive Departments	Independent Agencies

Section 5

Create an analogy that evaluates the role and impact of government bureaucracies on the lives of Americans by completing this statement: *Government bureaucracies are like . . .*

Use one of these options to complete your analogy, or create your own:

- an overbearing parent who controls your life
- an overloaded computer hard drive that keeps crashing
- a well-oiled engine that keeps a car running
- an emergency room doctor who saves lives

Illustrate your analogy with a simple drawing. Then, write at least two statements beginning with the word *because* to explain your analogy.

P R O C E S S I N G

Create and conduct an opinion survey to evaluate the current president’s job performance.

- Your survey will have nine questions. The first eight questions will focus on the eight presidential roles. For each of these questions, provide a brief description of that role and then ask, *Do you approve or disapprove of the way the president is performing in this role?* Add a final question that assesses the president’s overall job performance.
- Conduct the survey by polling at least 10 individuals outside your class.
- Compile your survey results for each of the nine questions. Then, write a paragraph summarizing your results.