

The President's Job According to the Constitution

The U.S. Constitution contains the only official "job description" for the President of the United States. According to Article II, Sections 2 and 3, the President:

- 1) Is the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the United States, and of each state's militia when the nation has need of it
- 2) Has power to obtain information and opinions from heads of the executive departments
- 3) May grant pardons and reprieves for crimes against the United States
- 4) Makes treaties with other countries with the approval of the Senate
- 5) Appoints ambassadors, federal judges and heads of executive departments – all subject to the approval of the Senate; the President also has power to fill any vacancies that may happen while the Senate is in recess
- 6) Must report to Congress from time to time about the state of the union and recommend whatever measures he thinks are necessary
- 7) May call members of Congress together on extraordinary occasions, as well as adjourn their meetings when they cannot agree on their own about when to do this
- 8) Receives foreign ambassadors and other public officials
- 9) Is responsible for enforcing the nation's laws
- 10) Issues commissions to all officers of the United States