

Roles of the Presidency (Adapted from *The Presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court*, Scholastic Inc.)

Role	Description	Examples
1. Commander-In-Chief	Only Congress can declare war, but the president commands all U.S. Armed Forces. S/he decides where U.S. military forces are sent, and how weapons are used. S/he can call into service the state units of the National Guard and, in times of emergency, may be empowered by Congress to manage national security or the economy. The president has almost sole discretion on the use of nuclear weapons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deciding whether to bomb foreign countries - Using National Guard troops to help with a natural disaster (e.g. hurricane Katrina) - Calling out troops to enforce a Supreme Court ruling (as Eisenhower did in Little Rock) - The decision to use nuclear weapons
2. Chief Executive	The president is the "boss" for millions of federal government workers in the Executive Branch. S/he decides how the laws of the United States are enforced and chooses officials and advisors to help run the Executive Branch departments and agencies. Presidents appoint all Cabinet members, who must also be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointing the Secretary of Labor - Calling out troops to enforce Supreme Court rulings (e.g. Little Rock in 1954) - Making executive orders about immigration
3. Legislative Leader	Only Congress can make national laws, but the Constitution gives the president power to influence Congress in its lawmaking. Presidents may urge Congress to pass new laws or veto bills they do not favor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signing or vetoing a bill of Congress - Proposing the federal government budget - calling Senators to support a specific bill - Convening a special session of Congress
4. Chief Diplomat	With the help of advisors, the president sets the foreign policy of the United States. S/he has the power to negotiate treaties with other countries (which must be approved by two thirds of the Senate). S/he can also make Executive agreements with other countries, which aren't as strong as treaties. The president also picks all U.S. ambassadors and decides what American diplomats and ambassadors will say to foreign governments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with world leaders (ex. the G7) - Negotiating the North Am. Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) - Sending a message of concern to the leaders of China - Addressing the United Nations
5. Judicial Appointer	The president nominates judges to federal courts and justices to the United States Supreme Court, as well as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. These positions require Senate confirmation by majority vote.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominating Supreme Court justices - Filling vacancies in the federal courts - Picking the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
6. Chief Citizen and Head of State	This role requires a president to be an inspiring example for all Americans. In some nations, the chief of state is a monarch, like Queen Elizabeth in the United Kingdom, who wears a crown on special occasions, celebrates national holidays, and stands for the highest values and ideals of the country. As the American Chief of State, the president is a living symbol of the nation; the one person chosen by the whole country to represent the whole country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming foreign leaders at the White House - Hosting U.S. Olympic athletes - Conveying national condolences at times of national tragedy - Giving the annual State of the Union address - Pardoning a person convicted of a federal crime from an unjust punishment
7. Chief of Party	In this role, the president helps members of his or her political party get elected or appointed to office. The president campaigns for those members who have supported his or her policies. It is generally understood that presidents will appoint members of his or her own party to fill most government positions. At the end of a term, the president may campaign for reelection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choosing leading party members to serve in the Cabinet, as the heads of federal agencies, and as U.S. ambassadors - Traveling to California to speak at a rally for a party nominee running for the U.S. Senate