

Online Learning Packet Week 1

Hello everyone.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We will try our best to conduct these online sessions as close to our regular class as possible.

Part I: TED video - Watch the linked TED video below. Answer the following questions on a separate google doc

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-do-executive-orders-work-christina-greer#watch>

1. Who did the framers make executive orders available to?
2. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln, the president of the United States, signed an executive order changing the status of 3 million blacks in America. What was it called?
3. Which president used an executive order to desegregate the Armed Forces?
4. Why did William Henry Harrison never issued an executive order?
5. Why can Executive orders can be checked and balanced in the U.S. political system?

These next questions must be answered in TREE paragraph format. Make sure you answer EACH part of the question.

6. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln decided to issue an executive order to legally change the status of over 3 million enslaved Blacks, across ten states, from “slave” to “free”. Why do you think President Lincoln decided to issue the Emancipation Proclamation as opposed to working with Congress to make a law? Do you think he was overreaching his power as president? Which process, executive order or working with Congress, do you think could be most effective for a president? Are there certain moments in time or certain issues that would change our opinion?
7. Many presidents believe issuing executive orders is more effective than working with Congress and passing laws. What other ways can presidents move their agenda forward? Do you think President Roosevelt was fair when he gave the military authority to target Japanese-Americans, German-Americans, and Italian-Americans in certain regions across the country and put them in internment camps? Did he overreach his power?
8. Many modern day presidents use executive orders in times of crisis or to expand programs they believe in. Do you think presidents should have this sweeping power over the 320 million Americans in the United States? Since recent presidents are usually elected by only half of the country, is the executive order too much power for one person? In your opinion, if the voters decided to take this power away, what could they replace it with? Can we ever

ensure that one person will not use this power for bad deeds instead of good? How can Congress, the courts, and voters make sure this does not happen?

9. If you research Executive Orders issued by modern day presidents, for example beginning with President Roosevelt, you will see that presidents have steadily used executive orders to expand their power by establishing agencies. By studying past executive orders, you will also see moments in time when presidents excluded various groups of people from American freedoms. Explore the [various executive orders](#) (**click on that link!**) issued by United States presidents beginning with FDR. Are there any executive orders that stand out to you? Do you notice any patterns among the presidents?