

11/13 Anatomy of the Constitution Reading

Anatomy of the Constitution

Name: _____

The Powers of Congress

Article I lists the powers Congress has. Even though Congress is a law-making body, it is not allowed to make laws about anything that's not on this list:

Natural Law
Laws

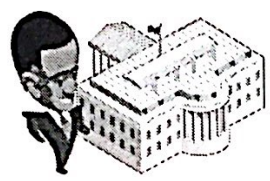
- Collect taxes
- Borrow money and pay debts
- Make rules for how to become a citizen
- Regulate commerce (trade) with other nations, between the states, and with Indian tribes
- Coin money and punish counterfeiters
- Establish post offices

Make

Enumerated Powers

- Give patents to new inventions
- Create the lower federal courts
- Punish pirates
- Declare war and support an army and navy
- Make any other laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the powers in this list.

→ AKA "Elastic" Clause



Creating the President: Article II

Article II of the Constitution describes the job of the executive branch. This branch executes, or carries out, laws. The president heads this branch, which also includes the vice president and many departments in charge of carrying out the government's day-to-day business. Article II describes who qualifies to be the president, what powers the office has, and what happens if a president misbehaves! It also explains the Electoral College, which is the process of how the president is selected.

Presidential Powers

The overall job of the executive branch is to carry out and enforce laws, but Article II gives the president a list of specific duties:

- Act as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces
- Negotiate treaties with other countries
- Maintain a cabinet of advisors who run the 15 executive departments like the State Department and the Treasury
- Appoint ambassadors, Supreme Court Justices and federal court judges, and Cabinet members
- Grant pardons in all federal criminal offenses, and reprieves (postpone punishments like executions)
- Make a State of the Union address to Congress
- Represent the United States when dealing with foreign countries
- Make sure that laws are carried out (executed)

Presidential Appointments

Foreign relations



The U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC

Creating the Courts: Article III

Here come the judges! Article III creates the judicial branch. The judicial branch interprets laws to decide what they mean and whether they have been followed in specific cases.

Article III creates the Supreme Court and authorizes Congress to create federal courts below the Supreme Court. These are courts that deal with United States laws, not state laws. Article III also gives directions about what kinds of cases the Supreme Court and federal courts can hear. Under Article III, federal judges are appointed, not elected. They stay on the bench until they retire, die, or are removed for bad behavior. Article III also guarantees trial by jury for criminal cases and explains the crime of treason.

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