



PRESIDENTIAL ROLES *ACTIVITY*

Directions: The following are a mixture of historical and fictional scenarios that involve the roles of the president. Read each scenario and determine which role the president is fulfilling and justify your answer with evidence.

1. Following Justice David Souter's retirement from the Supreme Court in 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court with the Senate's approval.

Role: _____

2. Despite the fact that there is no Congressional declaration of war, you, as the President of the United States decide to send troops to a country to help civilians in need.

Role: _____

3. In May of 2007, President George W. Bush welcomed British Prime Minister Tony Blair to the White House.

Role: _____

4. While creating next year's federal budget, the president decides to increase spending on education and to decrease spending on the military.

Role: _____

5. This is the president's last year in office, and he would like to make sure that a member of his party is elected for the next presidential term. As a result, he decides to speak on behalf of one of his party's presidential nominees at a fundraising event.

Role: _____

6. On December 19, 1995, President Bill Clinton vetoed H.R. 1058 Private Securities Litigation Reform Act. However, it was overridden by a 2/3 vote in both houses of Congress and enacted as Public Law 104-67.

Role: _____

7. The president negotiates a treaty with surrounding countries regarding the protection of endangered wildlife. The Senate approves this treaty.

Role: _____

8. Colin Powell was nominated as Secretary of State by President George W. Bush and approved unanimously by the Senate.

Role: _____

9. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt requested a declaration of war, which Congress approved. President Harry S. Truman later ordered the bombing of Hiroshima.

Role: _____

10. The president decides to propose a bill on energy conservation. The bill is drafted and arrives needing approval. After signing the bill, it becomes a law.

Role: _____



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ANSWER KEY

- 1. Role: Chief Executive**
- 2. Role: Commander in Chief**
- 3. Role: Head of State**
- 4. Role: Chief Economic Planner**
- 5. Role: Head of Party**
- 6. Role: Chief Legislator**
- 7. Role: Chief Diplomat**
- 8. Role: Chief Executive**
- 9. Role: Commander in Chief**
- 10. Role: Chief Legislator**