



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Checks & Balances** (n.) - A system that allows each branch of a government to amend or veto acts of another branch so as to prevent any one branch from exerting too much power.
2. **Executive Privilege** (n.) - The privilege, claimed by the president for the executive branch of the US government, of withholding information in the public interest.
3. **Expressed Powers** (n.) - The powers explicitly granted to the President in the Constitution.
4. **Implied Powers** (n.) - Powers not expressly stated in the Constitution, but have been interpreted by presidents as necessary to faithfully execute laws and defend the Constitution..
5. **Precedent** (n.) - An earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances.
6. **Separation of Powers** (n.) - The division of a government into branches, each with separate, independent powers and responsibilities, so that the powers of one branch are not in conflict with those of the other branches.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- In your opinion, under what circumstances should a president be able to invoke executive privilege?
- What is the relationship between executive privilege, the Constitution, and case law?
- Do you agree with the statement, “it belongs to the office, not the individual”, as it relates to executive privilege?
- What are the arguments for and against affording executive privilege to individuals no longer holding the office of the presidency? In your opinion, which argument is the strongest?
- How has the presidency of Richard Nixon impacted the principle of executive privilege?
- Does the concept and practice of executive privilege damage the need for transparency and checks & balances within the federal government?