**Teacher Name:** Tillapaugh  
**Content/Subject:** AP Government

**Timeline:** Week 1  
**SOL Review Topic(s):** Executive Branch

Students with internet access, check Khan Academy for assignments and Schoology for notes on the Presidency and the Bureaucracy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Directions: Growth of Presidential Power Essay</th>
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<td>Resources: Textbook Chapter 12, Essay Directions</td>
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<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Directions: Complete Chapter 14 Study Guide</th>
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<td>Resources: Textbook, Chapter 14 Study Guide</td>
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| Day 3 | Directions: Interpreting Charts and Graphs  
Find 10 charts or graphs in Chapters 12 and 14. Explain two facts you can learn from each chart/graph. |
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<td>Resources: Textbook, Chapters 12 and 14</td>
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| Day 4 | Directions: Current Events: Executive Branch  
Find three news articles that reference the president or the executive branch. Briefly explain the topic of the article and the role of the executive in the current event. |
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<tr>
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<td>Resources: TV news, newspapers, online news sources</td>
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| Day 5 | Directions: Write your legislator  
Write a letter to the president, one of our senators, or our representative about any issue that concerns you. You can send your letter through Whitehouse.gov, Senate.gov or House.gov if you like. |
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<td>Resources: Your brain!</td>
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**Teacher Name:** Tillapaugh  
**Content/Subject:** AP Government

**Timeline:** Week 2  
**SOL Review Topic(s):** Judicial Branch

Students with internet access, check Khan Academy for assignments and Schoology for notes on the Judicial Branch.

| Day 1     | Directions: Complete Study Guide for Chapter 15: The Federal Courts  
|           | Resources: Textbook Chapter 15, Study Guide |
| Day 2     | Directions: How to Become a Federal Judge  
|           | Resources: Guide to Federal Nominations Chart, Textbook Chapter 15 |
| Day 3     | Directions: You are the Policymaker Activity  
|           | Read pages 455-457 in Chapter 15, Answer the questions in the “What do you think?” section on page 457.  
|           | Resources: Textbook Chapter 15 |
| Day 4     | Directions: Supreme Court Process: Make a chart showing how a case gets accepted to the Supreme Court and the process it goes through in the court resulting in an opinion. Add as many details as you can.  
|           | Resources: Textbook Chapter 15 |
| Day 5     | Directions: Judicial Branch Children’s Book  
|           | Make a children’s book explaining how the Judicial Branch works.  
|           | Resources: Article III, Textbook Chapter 15 |
Use Chapter 12 of your textbook, the notes on “Power of the Presidency” on Schoology and any other research to write an essay based on the following prompt.

The power of the President and the Executive Branch has grown over time well beyond what was conceived by the founders. Explain at least three examples of the growth of executive power and the reasons and consequences of that growth. Explain how the legislative and judicial branches can check the powers of the executive.
1. Summarize some of the issues related to the bureaucracy as it regulates food safety.

2. According to Max Weber, what are the 5 elements that help a bureaucracy work?

3. What level of bureaucracy is growing in the U. S.?

4. What fraction of federal workers work in Washington DC?

5. What are some routine tasks performed by the federal bureaucracy?

6. Which departments and agencies have more than 100,000 employees?

7. Explain patronage and the “spoils system.”

8. What event prompted the passage of the Pendleton Civil Service Act?

9. How are people hired based on the merit principle?

10. Explain the Hatch Act.

11. Explain how the OPM conducts the hiring of civil service employees.

12. What is the GS rating based on?

13. Why is it difficult to fire civil service employees?

14. Why is it difficult for political appointees to direct their agencies and affect policy?

15. How many cabinet level departments are there? ____________

16. What does an independent regulatory commission do?

17. Explain the job of the following:

FRB:

NLRB:

FCC:

FTC:

SEC:
18. What does it mean for a regulatory commission to be “captured?”

19. What is a government corporation? Give an example.

20. What is an example of an independent executive agency?

21. What are 3 elements of policy implementation?

22. Explain the reasons why policy implementation can break down. Give a real world example for each one.

   Program Design:

   Lack of Clarity:

   Lack of Resources:

   Lack of Authority:

   Administrative Routine:

   Administrators’ Dispositions:

   Fragmentation:

23. What are some arguments for and against privatization?

24. Give two examples of government regulation of the automobile industry:

25. All regulation contains what 3 elements:

26. Explain the difference between the command and control policy and the incentive system:

27. What are some arguments for and against deregulation?

28. Explain the 4 ways that presidents can try to control the bureaucracy:

29. Explain the 4 ways that Congress can try to control the bureaucracy:

30. Explain how iron triangles work to shape policy.

31. Draw the iron triangle diagram on page 435 but use a different issue for the example.
1. Explain the difference between a criminal case and a civil case:

2. Where are most civil and criminal cases tried?

3. Define the following: plaintiff, defendant, standing to sue, class action suits, justiciable disputes, *amicus curiae*:

4. What is the only court mentioned in the Constitution? Who creates other federal courts?

5. Draw the chart of the organization of the federal courts:

6. Explain the difference between original and appellate jurisdiction.

7. When do the federal district courts have jurisdiction?

8. How are U.S. attorneys chosen?

9. How many U.S. courts of appeal are there? Which circuit is Virginia in?

10. How many justices are there on the Supreme Court? How is this number chosen?

11. In what types of cases does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?

12. Which courts are the source of most of the appellate cases before the Supreme Court?

13. What needs to happen for the Supreme Court to hear an appeal from a state court system?

14. What is the term for a federal judge/justice? How many other countries have this term?

15. How can a federal judge be removed from office? How many have been removed?

16. What is another protection given to judges in the Constitution?

17. Explain senatorial courtesy:

18. How did the practice of senatorial courtesy change during the Obama administration? What was the effect of the change?

19. Why are recent nominees being confirmed at a lower percentage than historically?

20. How are Supreme Court nominations different from the lower courts?

21. What are some reasons that nominations to the Supreme Court have failed? Give specific examples with their names.

22. What is the main point of the table on page 456?
23. List the present Supreme Court justices in order from most conservative to most liberal.

24. Explain how the demographics of the Supreme Court have changed over time.

25. How many requests for review does the Supreme Court get annually?

26. What happens at the courts weekly conferences?

27. How many justices need to agree to grant a review?

28. What is a writ of certiorari?

29. Which types of cases is the court most likely to accept?

30. What is a per curiam decision?

31. Explain the process the Supreme Court uses to make a decision:

32. Explain how stare decisis and precedents guide court opinions.

33. Which court can overrule its own precedents?

34. Explain originalism and give examples of how this theory guides judicial decisions.

35. What are the criticisms of originalism?

36. What is judicial implementation?

37. Give an example of each of the players in judicial implementation: Interpreting population, Implementing population, Consumer population:

38. Summarize each court era, giving details of people and cases. John Marshall’s Court/The “Nine Old Men”/The Warren Court/The Burger Court/The Rehnquist and Roberts Courts

39. Explain why judicial activism and judicial restraint should not be confused with liberalism or conservatism.

40. What are some ways that Congress and the President can check the power of the courts?
An easy guide to federal judicial nominations

9 steps from vacancy to confirmation

Everyday federal judges make decisions that affect our lives. Not only do they hear cases impacting the environment, health care, Social Security benefits, and immigration, for example, but they often have the final say in determining whether we can marry, whether our speech is protected, or how we can vote. Despite these important decisions, most Americans don’t know how or why a judge is chosen. Under the Constitution, the president nominates federal judges by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Our simple step-by-step guide illustrates the process.

1. Judges often give advance notice of up to one year before a vacancy occurs in a federal district court or circuit court of appeals.

2. The White House consults with home state senators, often soliciting their recommendations, to identify candidates to fill the vacancy.

3. The White House conducts a thorough vetting of the candidate, considering their American Bar Association rating, and announces their nomination.

4. After blue slips are returned in favor of the nominee, the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee schedules a committee hearing where members are able to debate the candidate’s qualifications.

5. A majority of the Senate judiciary committee votes to move the nominee forward.

6. The Senate Judiciary Committee sends blue slips—requests for approval on light blue paper—to each home state senator to indicate support for the nominee.

7. The Senate votes on the nominee, and the nominee is confirmed with a majority vote.

8. The president signs the judge’s commission and begins their lifetime appointment to the federal bench.

9. The Senate majority leader schedules a full vote in the U.S. Senate.

Potential Roadblocks

The above process assumes there are no procedural roadblocks to an appointment. This process can be affected by partisanship and can be delayed indefinitely.

Home state senators fail to consent to the president.

Home state senators fail to return blue slips or disapprove of the nominee.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee can delay the committee vote.

Senators can block the Senate majority leader from promptly scheduling a full Senate vote.
Use the chart and your textbook Chapter 15 to make a plan for a person (you?) who wants to become a federal judge.

Explain what education and experience is needed.
Explain where the nomination might be stopped.
Explain the political factors that will affect the nomination.
Be creative and think outside the box!