

Separation of Powers-

Each branch of the federal government (legislative, executive, and judicial) operates independently of the other branches:

Legislative	Executive	Judicial
<p>The main duties of the legislative branch (Congress) are to write, debate, and pass bills that are then passed up to the President for approval. Congress is made up of two chambers: (1) The Senate and (2) The House of Representatives</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Senate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senate has 100 members called senators • Senators are elected for six year terms • A senator must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least nine years, and a resident of the state they represent to be elected • Only senators can vote yes or no to treaties the president makes and to people the president recommends for jobs such as Supreme Court justices and hold a trial for a government official who commits a crime against the country <p style="text-align: center;"><u>House of Representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 435 members in the House of Representatives. • Each Representative represents an area of their state known as a Congressional district • Representatives are elected to two-year terms • Representatives must be 25 years old, a citizen for seven years, and a resident of the state they are elected to represent • Only Representatives can initiate laws that make people pay taxes and decide if a government official should be impeached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The executive branch enforces the laws of the United States • The President is the head of the executive branch • The President serves as Commander in Chief of the military, recommends legislation, and appointments certain government officials with the approval of the majority of the senate • The Vice-President and Cabinet Members help the President • If the President does not like a bill made by the Congress, he can veto it • The President is elected to four-year terms and can be elected twice • The President must be 35 years old, a natural born citizen, and must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Judicial Branch is lead by the Supreme Court • Courts decide arguments about the meaning of laws, how they are applied, and whether they break the rules of the Constitution • The Supreme Court is the referee in disputes among various branches of the federal and state governments • The Supreme Court is made up of nine Justices. One of these is the Chief Justice. • The Justices are appointed by the President and must be approved by the Senate. Justices have their jobs for life, unless they resign, retire, or are impeached