WORKSHEET: The Presidency

WHO PICKS? Since we’ve discussed the role of polling, take a look at this - http://www.gallup.com/poll/139880/Election-Polls-Presidential-Vote-Groups.aspx#1

What are your initial impressions?

GENERAL CONCEPTS

What are the president’s constitutional powers and responsibilities? (James Madison contributed the most re the writing the Constitution; consequently, the description of these powers is called often the Madisonian model.)

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
(others?)

What 3 conditions tend to limit or enhance the presidential power of any specific president?

A. 
B./ 
C. 
Author Thomas Patterson states that "the president’s constitutional powers have been extended in practice beyond the Framers’ intentions." Can you discover five examples that support this statement?

I.

II.

III.

IV.

IV.

Compare and contrast the Whig theory of the presidency to the stewardship theory. How did World War II change the role and responsibilities of the president?

In what ways is the president’s ability to make executive appointments a significant source of power?

What is the EOP and why is it significant?

WHO?

OMB

The Office of the vice-president

The president’s cabinet

In what ways can the president’s appointment power pose a problem? What is “capture?”

What are the key factors that determine a president’s success or failure?

   The force of circumstance

   The “honeymoon”

   The nature of the issue
The two presidencies

Relationships with Congress -

- The power of the veto AND The power of the Congress to override a veto
- Benefiting from partisan support in Congress OR Colliding with Congress

The controversy over signing statements

The War Powers Act of 1973

Public support

Presidential approval ratings

The "rally round the flag" reaction of the Am public

The televised presidency

“going public”

“feeding frenzy”

“the illusion of presidential govt”

The Imperial Presidency

*At The Margins*
HIRING CABINET MEMBERS

Directions – Imagine you have just been elected President. You must appoint people to serve as your Cabinet members. Use the information on these offices from the texts, lecture, and your own research to help you fill in the boxes below.

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RANK THE PRESIDENTS!

Since 1948, presidents have been ranked from best to worst on a number of metrics. (see this article for more: (http://www.siena.edu/uploadedfiles/home/parents_and_community/community_page/sri/independent_research/Presidents%20Release_2010_final.pdf)

Devise 5 to 7 objective measures of a ‘good’ president, and make a top ten list!

Example of a metric:
"Did the President have sex with a White House Intern? Score 1 for NO, 0 for YES"

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Test Your Knowledge!

1. An aspect of George Washington’s personality that encouraged the delegates to the Constitutional Convention to approve an elected presidency was his
   a. bravery in battle. b. clairvoyance. c. loyalty to his subordinates. d. keen wit. e. self-restraint.

2. The second plan that was suggested at the Constitutional Convention for the selection of the president called for selection by
   a. state legislatures. b. the Supreme Court. c. the direct vote of the people. d. the electoral college. e. Congress.

3. Under the original provisions of the U.S. Constitution, the states were to choose presidential electors
   a. however they wished. b. by popular vote. c. by vote of the legislature. d. by appointment of the governor. e. by rules designated by the courts.

4. Presidents are now limited to two terms by the
   a. Fourteenth Amendment. b. Sixteenth Amendment. c. Nineteenth Amendment. d. Twenty-first Amendment. e. Twenty-second Amendment.

5. The personality of which president began to alter the relationship between the president and Congress and the nature of presidential leadership?

6. Which of the following statements about presidential elections thrown into the House of Representatives is incorrect?
   a. The House chooses one of the top two candidates. b. Each state casts one vote. c. The State’s vote is based on the majority preference the state’s House delegation. d. If there is a tie within a state, that state’s vote is not counted. e. This process is only used when no candidate gets a majority in the electoral college.

7. The last time a candidate won the electoral college without winning the popular vote was
__8. From the examples of Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln, one learns that emergency conditions and _____ can offer presidents opportunities for substantial increases in power.
   a. a strong Congress       b. a popular and strong-willed personality
   c. an uninterested public  d. majority support in the cabinet
   e. a compliant Supreme Court

__9. Today, senior White House staff members are drawn from the ranks of
   a. the president’s campaign staff.       b. Ivy league colleges and universities.
   c. the nation’s top law schools.         d. Congress.
   e. the Department of Justice.

__10. The prior work experience of presidential appointees to the executive branch most likely includes
   a. some federal agency.       b. private corporations.     c. foundations.
   d. labor unions.             e. judicial experience.

__11. Members of Congress pay attention to the personal popularity of a president because
   a. the president may be called on to campaign for them.
   b. the president may campaign against them in a primary.
   c. many members of Congress have aspirations to the presidency.
   d. politicians tend to rise and fall together.
   e. PAC monies often depend on perceptions of proximity with popular presidents.

__12. How successful presidents are with legislation in Congress is difficult to gauge because presidents
   a. never reveal their position on noncontroversial bills.
   b. can keep their victory score high by not taking a position on any controversial measure.
   c. do not have the power to veto bills passed by Congress.
   d. do not have the ability to show their approval or disapproval, since they must not sign bills before they can become law.
   e. can never overcome the influence of interest-group money on congressional votes.

__13. The classic example of the honeymoon phenomenon was
   d. Gerald Ford.         e. Bill Clinton.

__14. Richard Neustadt asserts that the real power of a president is in his ___, but George Edwards asserts this power only operates ___.
   a. power to persuade, sometimes       b. popularity, behind the scenes
   c. willpower, at the margins          d. power to persuade, at the margins
   e. military acumen, behind the scenes