

## SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES

There is not a single branch of government that is more powerful or above the other. For almost every power granted to one branch of government, there is an equal power of control for the other two. For example, Congress can “check” the power of the President, the Supreme Court can “check” the power of Congress and the President, and the President can “check” the power of the Supreme Court. This keeps a careful “balance” of powers among the three branches.

**Instructions:** Look in your textbook to find out how each power is kept in “check” by the other branches. #1 is done for you as an example.

### Powers of the President

1. Approve or veto laws
2. Act as commander-in-chief
3. Appoints judges
4. Can issue Executive Orders
5. Is elected by the people

### How the powers of the President are “checked”

1. Only Congress can **create or pass** laws and can **override** a presidential veto.
2. Only Congress can \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Senate must \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Supreme Court can \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Can be removed by \_\_\_\_\_.

### Powers of Congress

6. Can pass laws
7. Can declare war
8. Decides on number of judges
9. Elected by the people

### How the powers of Congress are “checked”

6. The President can \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6a. The Supreme Court can declare laws \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The President is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The President gets to \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Can be removed by \_\_\_\_\_.

### Powers of the Judicial Branch

10. Interprets laws
11. Lifetime appointment
12. Can declare laws unconstitutional

### How the powers of Judicial Branch are “checked”

10. Only \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can create laws.
11. President gets to \_\_\_\_\_ and Congress can \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Congress can \_\_\_\_\_.