You Be The President!

As president, or the head of the executive branch, you <u>have the power</u> to:
- Propose laws to the Congress (the legislative branch);
- Sign bills into law;
- Veto bills from becoming laws;
- Negotiate treaties with foreign countries;
- Make executive appointments (to the Cabinet; to the Supreme Court; to federal agencies like the F.B.I.; etc.); and
- Grant pardons to federal offenders.

You can <u>check the powers</u> of the Congress by:
- Proposing new legislation; and
- Vetoing bills from becoming laws.

You can <u>check the powers</u> of the Supreme Court by:
- Appointing judges who share your political viewpoints; and
- Enforcing the Court's decisions.

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Directions for Part One: Read the role-playing scenario below and familiarize yourself with your branch of government's goal. Then, brainstorm a list of actions/steps that your branch has the power to take in order to accomplish your goal. An example is provided for you.

Scenario/Goal:
After a spontaneous trip to your favorite restaurant, McDonald's, you decide that, maybe, just maybe, the secret to world peace can be found in a Big Mac, French fries, and a vanilla milkshake. With a burst of energy, you sprint back to the White House and head straight for the Oval Office. Inside, you begin brainstorming a series of actions you can take to make McDonald's a more prominent part of your presidency.

Actions to Accomplish Your Goal:
- *You propose a law to the Congress requiring every school to replace the Pledge of Allegiance with the "Big Mac Song" ("Two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun.")*

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Directions for Part Two: Think about the goals that the other two branches of government have presented to you. Given the ways in which you can check their powers, brainstorm a list of actions/steps you would take to check each branch's power and make it difficult for each branch to accomplish its goal.

Actions to Check the Congress' Goal:
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Actions to Check the Supreme Court's Goal:
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