



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Succession** (n.) - The action or process of inheriting a title, office, property, etc.
2. **Vacancy** (n.) - An unoccupied position or job.
3. **Cabinet** (n.) - An advisory body made up of the heads of the 15 executive departments. Appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, the members of the Cabinet are often the President's closest confidants
4. **25th Amendment** (n.) - An amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1967, establishing the succession to the presidency in the event of the president's death, resignation, or incapacity.
5. **President Pro Tempore of the Senate** (n.) - A constitutionally recognized officer of the Senate who presides over the chamber in the absence of the vice president. The president pro tempore (or, "president for a time") is elected by the Senate and is, by custom, the senator of the majority party with the longest record of continuous service.
6. **Speaker of the House of Representatives** (n.) - The presiding officer of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Speaker, a member of the House, is elected by a majority party caucus. In addition to being chief spokesman for the majority party, the Speaker runs the proceedings of House debate and voting, appoints committee members, refers bills to committees for research and development, and has an influential voice in all stages of a bill's consideration.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- Why is having a concrete line of succession of the presidency such an important bedrock to a democracy?
- Why do the members of the Cabinet come after members of both Congressional houses in the presidential line of succession?
- With the Vice President being the first in line for presidential succession, does the way they are elected make sense to you? Why or Why not?
- Was passing the 25th Amendment of the Constitution necessary? Why or Why not?
- In your opinion, should unelected officials, such as Cabinet members, be a part of the presidential line of succession?
- In your opinion, was the language in the Constitution regarding succession sufficient? Or was the subsequent legislation and 25th amendment necessary to clear up any ambiguity?