



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

VOCABULARY

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

1. **Classified Documents** (n.) - Material that a government body deems to be sensitive information that must be protected
2. **Executive Order** (n.) - A directive by the president of the United States that manages operations of the federal government
3. **National Security** (n.) - The security and defense of a sovereign state, including its citizens, economy, and institutions, which is regarded as a duty of government
4. **State Secrets** (n.) - Information that a government decides must be kept secret from the public
5. **Presidential Records Act** (n.) - Federal law governing the official records of Presidents and Vice Presidents created or received after January 20, 1981, and mandating the preservation of all presidential records.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

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

- What are classified documents?
- What are the various degrees of classification given to documents in the United States federal government? What is the reasoning behind multiple degrees of classification?
- How does someone become authorized to receive classified documents?
- What roles do the legislative and judicial branch of the federal government play in providing checks and balances to the executive branch's power to classify documents?
- What are the described motivations behind classifying documents?
- What is the argument being made by those who believe too many documents are now classified? In your opinion, are these arguments valid? Explain.
- In your opinion, are the security measures currently in place to protect and track federally classified documents sufficient? Explain.