

CHAPTER
13
SECTION 2

READING COMPREHENSION

Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency 3

1. Briefly explain how each of the following provides for presidential succession:

a. the original provisions of the Constitution _____

b. the 25th Amendment _____

c. the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 _____

2. How does the 25th Amendment provide for situations in which the President is disabled?

3. List the two formal duties that the Constitution assigns to the Vice President:

a. _____

b. _____

4. Why can the position of the Vice President be considered both very important and very unimportant?

5. What does it mean to "balance the ticket"?

6. How has the vice presidency changed in recent years?

7. What is the procedure for filling a vacancy in the vice presidency?

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CORE WORKSHEET**Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency 3**

Read each scenario in the first column. In the second column, write the next steps that would occur to address the situation. Then, in the third column, identify the laws or precedents that specify the process for resolving the situation.

Scenario	Next Steps	Laws or Precedents
1. The President dies of natural causes.		
2. The President is hurt in a serious accident and realizes that he cannot fulfill his duties at this time.		
3. The President suffers a stroke and is unable to communicate.		
4. The Vice President dies while in office.		
5. Both the President and Vice President are killed in a plane crash.		
6. The President is unhappy with the Vice President's public statements opposing official policies and wants to dismiss her from office.		
7. The President dies and the Vice President is sworn in as President, but needs emergency surgery before a new Vice President is chosen. She will be unable to make decisions for about 12 hours.		
8. After recovering from an injury, the President believes he is ready to resume his duties, but the Vice President and Cabinet members disagree.		

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EXTEND WORKSHEET

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Find out who currently holds the offices that are in the line of succession to the presidency. Then answer the Reflection Questions on a separate paper.

Order of the Presidential Succession	Name of Current Office Holder
1. Vice President	_____
2. Speaker of the House	_____
3. President <i>pro tempore</i> of the Senate	_____
4. Secretary of State	_____
5. Secretary of the Treasury	_____
6. Secretary of Defense	_____
7. Attorney General	_____
8. Secretary of the Interior	_____
9. Secretary of Agriculture	_____
10. Secretary of Commerce	_____
11. Secretary of Labor	_____
12. Secretary of Health and Human Services	_____
13. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	_____
14. Secretary of Transportation	_____
15. Secretary of Energy	_____
16. Secretary of Education	_____
17. Secretary of Veterans Affairs	_____
18. Secretary of Homeland Security	_____

Reflection Questions

1. Why did Congress place the House and Senate leaders at the top of the list?
2. If the official line of succession did not exist, which positions do you think would be held by people with enough experience to fill the President's role? Explain.
3. Why do you think Congress placed Cabinet heads in order of precedence?