

Checks and Balances

Congress Checks the President

(Legislative Branch Checks the Executive Branch)

- creates agencies and programs
 - appropriates funds to carry out laws and programs
 - may override veto with a 2/3 vote
 - may remove President through impeachment
 - (Senate) approves treaties
 - (Senate) approves presidential appointments
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Congress Checks the Supreme Court (and other Federal Courts)

(Legislative Branch Checks the Judicial Branch)

- creates lower courts
 - may remove judges through impeachment
 - (Senate) approves or rejects appointment of judges
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President Checks Congress

(Executive Branch Checks the Legislative Branch)

- may veto legislation (laws)
 - can call special sessions
 - recommends legislation
 - appeals to the people
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President Checks the Supreme Court (and other Federal Courts)

(Executive Branch Checks Judicial Branch)

- appoints Supreme Court and other federal judges
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Courts Check Congress

(Judicial Branch Checks the Legislative Branch)

- may declare acts of Congress to be unconstitutional
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Courts Check the President

(Judicial Branch Checks the Executive Branch)

- appointed for life, free from executive control
 - may declare executive actions to be unconstitutional
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