*QUESTIONS*

1. Comment on the following:

*Can the presidency become too powerful and thus pose a threat to democracy? Or is the Madisonian system strong enough to check any such tendencies? On the other hand, is the president strong enough to stand up to the diverse interests in the United States? Does the president have enough power to govern on behalf of the majority?*

1. Comment on the following:

*In their efforts to obtain public support from the broad spectrum of interests in the public, are presidents natural advocates of an expansion of government? Do they promise more than they should in order to please the voters? As they face frustrations of governing, do presidents seek to centralize authority in the federal government, where they have greater influence, while reducing that of the states? Does the chief executive seek more power through increasing the role of government?*

1. Read [this](http://www.bmoore.net/apgov/biographies/harding.pdf) short biography of President Warren Harding and discuss his “electability” today.
2. Read about the impeachment of President Clinton; should the Senate have convicted President Clinton?
3. Read the U.S. presidential line of succession [Presidential Succession Act of 1947 ([3 U.S.C. § 19](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/3/19.html))] and the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorized Act of 2005 ([Pub.L. 109-177](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h109-3199)), which amended presidential succession. Do you agree with the order of succession chosen?
4. Political pundits can't seem to agree on how powerful the president should be, so you decide: how strong should the presidency be?
5. Using Figure 13.1 as your base, identify each of the executive office's respective head, usually a “director,” and detail their overall job description.
6. If you were able to win election to the presidency, would you choose the hierarchical organization for your White House staff or the wheel-and-spoke model; why?
7. What role can and/or should the First Lady play in American government?
8. Discuss the veto “process.”
9. Explain the president's role in both legislative decisions and party leadership.
10. Read the [War Powers Resolution](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/warpower.asp) and comment on the things it permits the president to do and those which he cannot.
11. To what extent does and/or should approval ratings guide a president?