American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course
Guided Reading
Section 5.3: Limits on Presidential Power

Name_____
Date_____ Class_____

Before you read

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: Describe the ways in which Congress and the Supreme Court may check presidential power.

AP® Key Concepts

War Powers Resolution

impeachment

While you read

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Branch of government	Checks on presidential power	Influence on president's agenda
Congress		
Supreme Court		

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After you read

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. Which statement BEST summarizes the relationship between the executive branch and the legislative branch?
    A. The legislative branch provides important checks against the executive branch.
    B. The legislative branch exercises power over the executive branch in matters of national security.
    C. The executive branch is granted powers that overrule most of the decisions made by the legislative branch.
    D. The executive branch is afforded more power over the financial standing of the United States than the legislative branch.

2. Which is an example of Congress's ability to check the president's power when it comes to nominating someone to the Supreme Court?
    A. Congress may nominate any qualified candidate to serve on the Supreme Court.
    B. The House of Representatives may block, delay, or confirm a nominee for the Supreme Court.
    C. The Senate may block, delay, or confirm a nominee for the Supreme Court.
    D. The Senate must approve the list of nominees the president chooses from when nominating a justice to the Supreme Court.

3. The War Powers Resolution prohibits:
    A. Congress from declaring war on a foreign country without the president's approval.
    B. the president from maintaining troops in combat for more than sixty days without congressional approval.
    C. the president from declaring war.
    D. Congress from increasing taxation during wartime.

4. What was significant regarding the War Powers Resolution?
    A. It expanded the power of the legislative branch.
    B. It expanded the power of the judicial branch.
    C. It expanded the power of state governments.
    D. It limited the power of the executive branch.

5. A president who has shared confidential matters regarding national security to benefit a plot that would negatively impact the United States may face _____ by Congress.

6. Which is a way that the Supreme Court can check the president's power?
    A. by overriding a veto
    B. by overturning an executive order
    C. by declaring a law unconstitutional
    D. by leading impeachment trials

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