**6.1 Notes: The President**

**Roles of the President**

* Article II of the Constitution outlines the executive branch of the federal government and the presidency (p 163-164)

**Official Roles (under Article II)**

* Chief executive
* Chief administrator
* Commander in chief
* Foreign policy leader
* Chief agenda setter

**Unofficial Roles**

* Chief of state
* Party leader
* Chief citizen

**Formal Characteristics of the Presidency**

**Written Qualifications**

* Constitutional
  + 35 years old
  + Natural Born Citizen
  + U.S. Resident 14 years
* Unwritten Yet Expected
  + Leadership
  + Decisive
  + Communicator
  + Negotiator
  + Experienced

**Term**

* 2 Terms [4 years each]
* FDR…22 Amendment
  + Max 10 years [if finishing predecessors term]

**Electing to Office**

* The Electoral College
  + Voters do not directly choose the pres & vice pres
  + Voters choose electors
  + Why? Framers worried about the public ability to make a wise choice AND concern over small vs large states
* How it works
  + Candidate names are on ballots but peeps are actually voting for party’s electors in their state
  + States granted a # of electors equal to the number of its members in the House & Senate
  + 538 electors: need 270 to win prez
    - Winner take all system: candidate who wins popular vote wins all electoral votes in that state
  + Dec: meet in D.C to cast official vote
* Issues w/ the Electoral College

**Presidential Succession**

* 25th Amendment>
  + \*Pres. Vacancy = V.P. becomes Pres.
  + \*V.P. Vacancy = Pres. Nominates replacement
  + [Congressional Approval]
* Succession Act of 1947 >
  + Only applies if vacancy in both Pres. & V.P. at same time.
  + Speaker/House
  + Pres. Pro Tempore [Senate]
  + Sec. of Cabinet [in chron. order of creation]

**Salary and Benefits**

* 400,000 a year
* Benefits: travel allowances, secret service, tax deduction on residencies, health & retirement benefits

**Unwritten Qualifications for the Presidency**

* Presidential Backgrounds
* Personal qualities