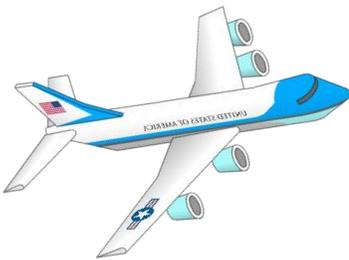


# SESSION FIVE >>

## Playing Executive Command

- ACTIVATE >>** students' prior knowledge by asking, "What do you think it means to be President? What does the President do?"
- COMPLETE >>** the included *All in a Day's Work* Read Aloud Anticipation Activity by reading it aloud to your students (or you could print copies and have them complete it individually!).
- LOG ON >>** to [www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org).
- NAVIGATE >>** to *Executive Command* by following these steps: click the "Play Games!" button on the main screen, then scroll down to the *Executive Command* game.
- INSTRUCT >>** students to click on "Instructions" if they haven't played the game before, or to jump right in by clicking "Play." They should follow these simple steps:



1. Players must select their avatar by clicking on the oval, voting, and choosing "Inaugurate Me!"
2. The President can be moved around the map by clicking on the circles in front of buildings. The first step is to speak to Congress to set the agenda.
3. As the game progresses, legislation will appear in the President's inbox at the White House, and the player must decide which pieces to approve and sign, or deny and veto. The President is then responsible for delivering the legislation to the correct agency and delegating it.
4. Encourage players to read what the characters are telling the President, so that they know when the President should speak to Congress, take diplomatic trips, and handle war breaking out!
5. The game is complete when "4 years" have gone by.

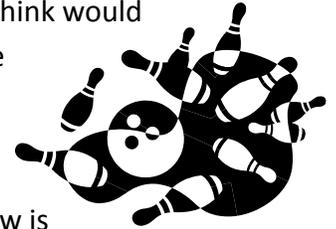
# EXECUTIVE COMMAND



# All in A Day's Work >>

## Anticipation Activity Read Aloud

Imagine you have been elected President of the United States. What do you think would be the best part of the job? Having your own personal jet? Living in the White House? Have a bowling alley in your house? (Yes, there's a one lane bowling alley in the basement of the White House!)



Being president is not just fun and games. You have real responsibilities. Below is



a list of things you would do as president of the United States. Which do you think would be the hardest to do? Which do you think would be the easiest?

**Rank the tasks in each group from 1 (hardest) to 3 (easiest). There is no correct answer! Use your own judgment. Read tasks aloud to your students and allow them to rank each group by vote.**

### GROUP A >>

\_\_\_ Lead weekly meetings to ask the leaders of the government offices (called "agencies") for their advice on how to handle the country's most difficult problems.

\_\_\_ Give my yearly "State of the Union" speech on what's happening in the U.S., which is broadcast live on television.

\_\_\_ Decide whether to approve or reject a bill that I believe would help millions of people, but would cost a lot of money.

### GROUP B >>

\_\_\_ Follow the Constitution and the law even if I disagree with it.

\_\_\_ Decide whether to send more troops into war knowing that some will die, but it will keep the country safe.

\_\_\_ Make sure the IRS (the government agency that collects taxes) collects people's taxes correctly so the government has money to do its job.

### GROUP C >>

\_\_\_ Answer difficult questions from reporters at a press conference where I'm asking Congress to do more.

\_\_\_ Try to negotiate an agreement with another country that would reduce both countries' nuclear weapons stockpiles.

\_\_\_ Choose a new Supreme Court justice because someone on the Court is retiring.