

## **Checks and Balances:**

**Directions:** For each scenario decide which branch has the power to check the other branches

### **Scenario 1:**

Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor just announced that she is retiring and moving back to the Bronx next year!

Who has the power to appoint a new Supreme Court justice? Why?

### **Scenario 2:**

The new Supreme Court justice that was recently nominated does not seem to be fit for the job.

Who has the power to vote against this nomination? Why?

### **Scenario 3:**

A Supreme Court justice has been accused of a felony (major crime)!

Who has the power to start the proceedings in order to possibly remove this judge from office? Why?

### **Scenario 4:**

The president wants to sign a treaty with Canada that states that the United States will only trade with Canada from now on.

Who can reject this new trade agreement? Why?

**Scenario 5:**

Congress proposes a law that states that the Speaker of the House of Representatives (leader of the house) will also serve as the president's White House press secretary. The president is outraged by this proposal.

What does he/she have the power to do? Why?

**Scenario 6:**

A new law created to protect wetlands in the southeastern part of the United States passed in both houses of Congress, but the president quickly vetoed it, arguing that it will cost too much money. Congress still has overwhelming support for the law, with nearly 75% in favor of it.

How can Congress respond to the president's veto? Why?

**Scenario 7:**

Congress passes a new law that makes it illegal for the press to report negatively about anyone in Congress.

Who has the power to legally respond to this law? Why?

**Scenario 8:**

Congress passes legislation that makes it illegal for any American, besides law enforcement and the military, to own a gun.

Who can check Congress's power in response to this law? Why?