# The American President Movie Guide

**Directions:**
1. As you watch the movie, identify how the President portrays each of the following 6 roles. Be sure to read the examples before you watch the movie and/or write down an example.

## Party Leader

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Examples of Behavior in Roles</th>
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| In this role, the president helps members of his political party get elected or appointed to office. The president campaigns for those members who have supported his policies. At the end of a term the president may campaign for reelection with his party's support. | 1. Choosing leading party members to serve in the Cabinet.  
2. Traveling to California to speak at a rally for a party nominee to the U.S. Senate. |

**Example from the movie:**

## Commander-in-Chief

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| The president is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces. That means all of the military leaders report to and take orders from the president. The president performs this duty as a civilian, someone who is not in military service. | 1. Inspecting a Navy yard.  
2. Deciding, in wartime, whether to bomb foreign cities.  
3. Calling out the National Guard to stop a riot. |

**Example from the movie:**

## Chief Executive

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| The president is the chief executive, empowered to administer the laws and affairs of the nation. While the president does not make the laws, his agencies have the responsibility, and authority to carry out the laws. | 1. Appointing the head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).  
2. Holding a Cabinet meeting to discuss government business.  
3. Reading Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reports on the state of national security. |

**Example from the movie:**

## Chief of State

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| The president’s role as chief of state is to represent the United States at public events. This is mainly a ceremonial role that allows the president to promote/convey/represent American values and acknowledge others who do the same. | 1. Awarding medals to students receiving academic honors.  
2. Congratulating astronauts upon their return from space travel.  
3. Greeting visitors to the White House.  
4. Delivering the State of the Union Address. |

**Example from the movie:**

## Chief Legislator
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| Though the president cannot make laws, he can voice his own ideas and opinions to Congress while they draft legislation. He does this through speeches promoting his agendas and by meeting with Congress to discuss policies. | 1. Signing or vetoing a bill passed by Congress.  
2. Working to get enough House or Senate votes for a bill to be passed through each respective house.  
3. Making a speech in Congress. |

Example from the movie:

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| Being a diplomat involves interacting with leaders from other nations. The president takes the lead in foreign relations by associating with foreign leaders and, along with the help of Congress, develops a foreign policy with other nations. | 1. Traveling to London to meet with the British prime minister.  
2. Working with leaders in the Middle East in an effort to create a peace plan for the region. |

Example from the movie:

2. After watching the movie, explain how the media influenced the following by writing 3-5 sentences that uses specific examples from the movie.  
   a. President

   b. Congress (in particular legislation)

   c. Executive Branch

3. After watching the movie, explain how the system of checks and balances was presented in the movie by writing 3-5 sentences that uses specific examples.