

UNIT 5: PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION & THE VICE PRESIDENCY

What does the verb “to succeed” usually mean to you?

What does it mean in the context of the Presidency? (two possible meanings)

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Read “Reagan’s Illness”

- 1) What does the 25th Amendment state?
- 2) What legal precedent did Reagan set?

SUCCESSION

Why might we need a Presidential *successor* (someone who takes over from a President) during a President’s term? Come up with as many reasons as you can.

Order of Succession:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.– 18.

What order do you think #'s 4 through 18 are in? Who do you think is in spots 5, 6, & 7? (remember US History class?)

Why might there not always be 18 people who could succeed the President?

The Presidential Succession Act of _____ establishes the line of succession in the event both the President and Vice President are killed or *incapacitated* (unable to perform their job).

The 25th Amendment: Read page 360-361 in your text.

- What two times has the 25th Amendment been used?

When would the Vice President just step in, and when would the Vice President actually BECOME the President?

How does the President reclaim power?

Who becomes the Vice President if the VP succeeds the President?

Can the President step down willingly?

What if the President is unwilling (but needs to go...)?

What are the formal duties of the Vice President?

What are the requirements to be Vice President? Why?

How does a presidential candidate choose a vice president?

What does it mean to “balance the ticket”?

Think Critically

- 1) Why is it so important to clearly articulate who takes over when the president is incapacitated?