Lesson 1- President and Vice President:

1. Qualifications:
   a. Be at least 35 years old
   b. Natural- Born Citizen (Law of Blood and Law of Soil)
   c. Live in the US for 14 or more years

2. Informal Qualifications:
   a. College Educated
   b. Most have worked in law or business
   c. From states with large population

3. Electing a President:
   a. Elections held every 4 years
      i. First Tuesday after the first Monday in November on even number years
   b. President not directly elected by the people but instead by the Electoral College
      i. Electoral College- a group of individuals called electors
      ii. 538 total members of the Electoral College- equal to the number of representatives each state has in the Senate and House of Representatives
      iii. 270 to win the presidency
      iv. Most states winner-takes-all
         1. Maine and Nebraska only two that are not winner-takes-all
      v. If no candidate has majority of electoral votes, the House of Representatives chooses the President
      vi. Electoral Votes determine by state popular vote

4. Presidential Terms:
   a. Presidents serve a 4 year term
      i. 22nd Amendment limits a president to 2 elected terms in office

5. The Vice President:
   a. Meets same basic qualifications as the president
   b. Granted little power under the Constitution
   c. Presides over the Senate- votes as a tie breaker
   d. Becomes president if the president dies, is removed from office, falls ill, or resigns

6. Presidential Succession:
   a. Presidential Succession Act (1947)- lists the line of people who takes over if the president is unable to fulfill term
      i. (1) Vice president (2) Speaker of the House (3) President Pro Tempore
   b. 25th Amendment (1967)- makes it clear that if the president dies or leaves office, the vice president becomes president
      i. Allows new president to choose a new vice president, w/ the help of Congress
         1. Senate and House of Representatives must vote to approve choice
      ii. VP has a say in determining if the president can fulfill office

Lesson 2- The President’s Powers and Roles:

1. Presidential Powers:
   a. Basic power is to execute, or carry out the laws
   b. Vetoing, or reject bills passed in Congress
   c. Call Congress into a Special Session
d. Serves as commander in chief of the armed forces  
e. Receives leaders and other officials of foreign countries  
f. Negotiates treaties with other counties (Senate approval)  
g. Appoints government officials (Senate approval)  
h. Grant pardons or reduce penalties for those who have committed crimes  
i. Address Congress on the “State of the Union”  
   i. Discuss the nation’s most important issues and how to solve them  

2. Presidential Roles:  
   a. Chief Executive  
      i. Holds executive power- carry out the laws passed by Congress  
      ii. In charge of the entire federal government  
         1. Appoints 15 cabinet members- head of executive departments  
   b. Chief Diplomat  
      i. Leads foreign policy of the US  
   c. Head of State  
      i. Symbol of the nation (not in formal role)  
      ii. Build goodwill with visiting foreign countries  
      iii. Represent all Americans at ceremonial events  
   d. Commander in Chief  
      i. Controls armed forces  
         1. Congress declares war  
      ii. Final authority over US military operations  
      iii. Advised by Joint Chiefs of Staff  
   e. Legislative Leader  
      i. Can propose new legislation (Congress, though, must introduce them to the legislative process)  
      ii. Bully Pulpit- national focus on the president gives him/her a great opportunity to speak out on an issue  
      iii. Recommends legislation in the State of the Union address  
   f. Economic Leader  
      i. Plans the federal government’s budget and meets with budget officials  
   g. Party Leader  
      i. Regarded as the leader of their party  
      ii. Helps the party raise money  
      iii. Give speeches to help fellow party members running for office  
      iv. Pressure party members to vote with the party in Congress  

Lesson 3- Making Foreign Policy:  

1. Tools of Foreign Policy  
   a. Treaties – formal agreement between countries  
      i. NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
         1. Post WWII – Canada, US, and many Western European nations promised to defend each other if ANY member is attacked  
      ii. Executive agreements are made between the president and a leader of a foreign country without the approval of the Senate  
         1. Much like an Executive Order has the effect of a law, an Executive Agreement has the power of a treaty.
b. Ambassadors are representatives of the US to other countries
   i. Appointed by president and confirmed by Senate

c. Foreign Aid
   i. Provide assistance to nations and build relations
   ii. Marshall Plan – Post WWII the U.S. sent millions of dollars to Western Europe to help rebuild. This helped bolster defense against the new threat of communism.

d. International Trade
   i. Economic agreements are made with other countries to build cooperation and economies.
   ii. Sanctions and embargos can be used to punish nations who do not cooperate with international agreements by withholding trade
   iii. NAFTA – North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement
       1. Allows for free trade between USA, Canada, and Mexico

e. Military Force
   i. President can use military if and when other methods of foreign policy do not work.