



## LESSON PLAN: THE FEDERAL CONFIRMATION PROCESS: CHOOSING THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Confirmation Process Flow Chart

#### Teacher Key

**Directions:** As you discuss the confirmation process for positions appointed by the president, complete the flow chart below. On the lines to the right, make notes about how the system of checks and balances is being used in the process.

**NOTE: The paragraphs below summarize the Federal Confirmation Process for Presidential Appointees.**

The Federal Confirmation Process is part of the Checks and Balances system. It allows the president to appoint cabinet officers and senior cabinet department heads along with federal Supreme Court judges and other members of the federal judiciary. Once the president announces the appointees, the Legislative Branch ensures that the nominees are well qualified for the position by conducting Senate Confirmation Hearings. During the process, members of the Senate interview and question nominees about a wide range of topics related to their qualifications for the job and ideas about how they will operate in the position. Upon completion of the hearings, the Senate then votes on whether or not to confirm the president's nominee for the position. If the nominee receives the majority of the Senate's votes, he/she will be confirmed. In addition to the Senate Confirmation Hearings, all nominees are also thoroughly investigated by the FBI and must complete various paperwork, including a financial disclosure. A White House Review ensures that members of the Executive Branch support the president's nominee for the position.

The Federal Confirmation Process is a good example of how the system of Checks and Balances allows the Executive Branch to choose people for specific jobs, while requiring review of the nominees by the Legislative Branch to ensure that all nominees are truly qualified to work in the position they have been nominated for. This keeps the Executive Branch from nominating people who might support only the political views and agenda of the president. At the same time, it allows the president the ability to choose qualified, fair people to work in key positions within the government.

Presidential  
Nomination



White  
House  
Review



Paperwork  
Financial  
Disclosure



FBI  
Investigation



Senate  
Confirmation  
Hearings



Senate  
Vote

Give Executive Branch, particularly the president, power to choose nominees for key government jobs.

Ensures that other members of the Executive Branch approve of the nominee.

Senate hearings ensure that representatives from Legislative Branch of government interview the nominee for qualifications.

Majority vote from Senate ensures the Legislative Branch is in favor of the nominee's confirmation.