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class: _____

date: _____

Comparative Government: Executive Branch**Unit 3B**

Roles of the President - Dave (1:50)

Chapter 7.2

Description: A fictional account, "Dave" is a comedy that portrays an unconstitutional event that brings light to the role of the president. In the movie, President Bill Mitchell suffers a stroke and is unable to perform his duties as president. According to the Constitution, the Vice-President is the person required to take over when the president is unable to carry out his duties. Well this does not happen. The White House Chief of Staff (Bob Alexander) and a chief advisor (Alan Reid) decide that it would be in their political best interest to allow the public to believe that the president is fine. Enter Dave Kovic, a presidential look-alike who earns some cash on the side by doing impersonations at birthdays, weddings, etc. Through this movie, the viewer, as well as Dave, learns the responsibilities of being the president and the many difficult decisions that person must make. Though not a realistic scenario, this film is enjoyable and teaches the job and roles of the president.

Important Characters:

- *Dave:* The main character, learns how to be president and the responsibility that comes with that position.
- *Bob Alexander:* White House chief of staff; circumvents the Constitution to appoint his own "president" that he can manipulate for his own political gain.
- *Alan Reid:* Presidential advisor, speechwriter, "stuck in the middle" between Bob Alexander and Dave.
- *Ellen Mitchell:* the First Lady.

Part A. Place the letter of the Role of the President on the line next to each event or observation. Some may have more than one role and some roles may not be used at all.

- A) Chief Executive
 B) Chief Diplomat
 C) Commander-in-Chief
 D) Legislative Leader

- E) Chief of State
 F) Economic Leader
 G) Party Leader
 H) Judiciary Leader (Chief Judiciary)

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| ___ 1) Meets with Congressional Party Leaders | ___ 8) Throws the first pitch at the Orioles baseball game |
| ___ 2) Gives speech at fundraising dinner | ___ 9) Visits homeless shelter with the First Lady |
| ___ 3) Appears with the First Lady on balcony for photos | ___ 10) Reviews and Cuts the budget |
| ___ 4) Has photo opportunity with babies | ___ 11) Works with the Cabinet to add back the homeless shelters |
| ___ 5) Greets Japanese dignitary | ___ 12) Calls a press conference announcing jobs program |
| ___ 6) Leads Cabinet meeting | ___ 13) Calls a Joint Session of Congress |
| ___ 7) Visits Factory (with robotic arms) | |

Part B. Short Answer. Answer the following questions based on the movie. If you need additional space, you may use the back of this sheet.

14) **The First Lady.** Was the First Lady working with on particular project? What was it? Based on this, what role do you think the First Ladies take with regard to the policy agenda?

16) **Presidential Succession.** When the President, Bill Mitchell, had his stroke, what did the Chief of Staff, Bob Alexander do that was illegal? Legally, what should have Bob Alexander done?

15) What is the purpose of the cabinet? Give examples.

17) Explain what you learned about the job / role of the president from watching this movie.