

Introduction to the President's Cabinet

Unit 4b Online Assignment #1

As the Chief Executive, the president 'presides' over three major divisions:

1. The Cabinet,
2. The Executive Office, and
3. The White House Staff.

After you read through the "Running the Government: The Chief Executive" part of Chapter 13, complete this online assignment about the Cabinet (pages 402-409 in old text).

The Cabinet

Watch the 5 minute video, "Inside the White House: The Cabinet". Watch without notes. Then, replay.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/inside-white-house-cabinet>

1. What is the difference between being a member of the cabinet and having cabinet rank?
2. Who decides which positions have Cabinet rank?
3. List five positions with Cabinet rank. Do not count the VP or President's Chief of Staff.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
4. How many official Cabinet departments are there?
5. What is the frequency of Cabinet meetings?
6. About how long do the meetings last?
7. According to President Obama, why are Cabinet meetings important?
8. Who sets the agenda?
9. How did this video enhance your understanding of the Cabinet? (Provide a thoughtful answer. Take a moment to think about it.)

Review the Cabinet's page on the White House website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/cabinet>

The photo, taken in April 2009, is of President Obama's original Cabinet. Some members have changed. The list of Cabinet officials, however, is up-to-date.

Typically, the first four members are considered the most important. Complete the chart.

Department	Official's Name	Year Established
	Secretary	
	Secretary	
	Secretary	
	Attorney General	

What is your public policy topic? _____

Which Department oversees (or would oversee) your policy topic? _____

Who is the Secretary of the Department? _____

Visit the Washington Post's "Who Runs Government" site: <http://www.whorunsgov.com/institutions>

Click on the Cabinet Department you listed above.

Number of employees— _____ 2010 Budget -- _____

Visit the department's website AND facebook page.

What is your general impression of each the website?

What is your general impression of the facebook page?

List two significant things about the department that you learned in the last 5-10 minutes.

The White House Interactive Tour -- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/interactive-tour>

Where (which room) do you find these people? Just for fun & 5 extra points. Don't help each other!

Reggie Bush _____

The Dalai Lama _____

Paul McCartney _____

The Marine Sentries _____

Tom Hanks _____

Bo, the Dog _____

The Jonas Brothers _____

Steven Spielberg _____