**Checks and Balances**

The following are scenarios to demonstrate the federal government’s separation of powers and checks and balances. Your job is to figure out **(1) Who has the power to check the action and (2) What power do they have?**

**Scenario #1:** On July 1, 1987 President Reagan nominated Robert Bork to be a Supreme Court Justice. There was a lot of opposition to Bork for various reasons including his opposition to the federal government imposing standards of voting fairness upon states.

**Scenario #2:** In 1918, after WWI, President Wilson had worked very hard to help create the Treaty of Versailles. However, many Americans were worried that ratifying the treaty, and therefore joining the League of Nations, would drag America into future European conflicts.

**Scenario #3:** During the Great Depression some people opposed President Roosevelt’s New Deal programs because, even though Congress approved them, they thought it gave the government too much power.

**Scenario #4:** In 1998 many Americans became upset with Bill Clinton when it became apparent that he had lied about having a sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. What branch can attempt to punish the president for such behavior?

**Scenario #5:** In November of 2007, Republican President Bush vetoed a bill to provide funding numerous water projects including dams, sewage plants and beach restoration. The bill had been very popular in the Democratic controlled legislature

**Scenario #6:** President Clinton’s half-brother, Roger Clinton, served one year of his prison sentence after pleading guilty to cocaine distribution charges. However, on Clinton’s last day in office he decided to help his brother. What gave Clinton the power to do this?

**Scenario #7:** In April 2014, a bill was introduced to the Senate that aimed to extend federally provided long-term unemployment benefits. The bill is supported by most democrats and opposed by most republicans. At the time republicans had a majority in the House of Representatives and democrats had a majority in the Senate.

**Scenario #8:** In 1792, a bill was passed through Congress that would have increased the number of representatives from northern states. Despite narrowly passing through Congress there was a lot of opposition to it becoming a law.

**Scenario #9:** Over the course of his presidency a Republican president was able to nominate and replace the majority of the justices on the Supreme Court. The Democrat controlled Congress is becoming very frustrated because the Republican dominated court is ruling that much of their legislation is unconstitutional.

**Scenario #10:** After an attack on Great Britain the president wants to send troops to help Britain invade the country responsible. Most Americans are very opposed to this action.

