

The President may do one of three things:

1. **Sign** the bill      The law is passed. →
2. **Veto** the bill      The bill will die.  
OR  
The veto may be overridden and the law is passed. →
3. **Ignore** the bill      The law is passed. →



### Extra Credit - 5pts

Find a current event news article either in a newspaper or from an online news source that mentions the House of Representatives, the Senate or Congress and highlight that word/phrase. Cut it out or print it out, hole-punch it and clip it into your binder in the pink section.

## Why might the President veto a bill?

It is no surprise that each President wants to go down in history as someone great! Presidents are, therefore, concerned with something called their **legacy**, which means what they will be known for in the future as a result of the laws that were passed during their time as President. Therefore, signing laws that helped the U.S. grow into a better, stronger country is a positive thing for a President's legacy. Signing laws that led to disaster or vetoing things that could have helped our nation will have a negative effect on what a President is remembered for as time goes on.

One reason a President might veto a bill is that he/she disagrees with the bill and does not want to go down in history as having supported it. He/She might have a personal belief against the issue or may have made a campaign promise to not support the idea that is being suggested in the bill. By vetoing the bill, most likely the idea will not become a law, so a veto is a powerful tool for a President. The majority of the Congress agreed with the idea but his/her ONE veto will kill the bill. Therefore, the bill will not go any further and the law will not happen.

Sometimes a President may disagree with a bill but not want to veto it. One reason is that Congress does get another chance to pass the bills that are vetoed. If Congress can get two-thirds of their members to vote for the bill again, this will **override** the veto. It is a little embarrassing to have the Congress override a President's veto. If a President does veto a bill, usually s/he knows that the Congress will not have the votes to override the veto.

Another reason for not vetoing a bill that the President actually disagrees with is to show that s/he realizes that the public is most likely behind the bill and as President, s/ he will not block the wishes of the majority. In this case, the President may choose to ignore the bill, not signing it and not vetoing it.

If s/he refuses to sign or veto and ten days go by, the bill will pass and become a law but won't have his/her signature on it. This way, in future years, when the results of such a bill are known, the President can say, "See, I told you this wasn't a good idea," if the law creates a bad situation for the U.S.A. If the law turns out to have been a good idea, the President will hope nobody remembers that s/he did not sign it.

Overall, the President wants to sign bills that the Congress passes. So, s/he will work with Congress during the process of writing the bill so that it is a piece of legislation that he or she **can support** once it reaches the President's desk in the Oval Office!