

## FCE Citizenship Program 2009

### “The Great Capital Cabinet Conundrum”

**Objectives:**

To become aware of the Order of Presidential Succession in case the President and Vice-President of the United States die.

To become aware of the responsibilities the department seats have in our government.

For more than 200 years, Americans have had something to get excited about, a new president! From George Washington to----- we wonder and wait, and often work very hard, to see who will be the leader of the United States. The important thing is that no matter who won the 2008 Presidential election, once the American people have spoken, they begin to join together to make the new president–elect and his family welcome.

As you know cabinets aren’t just in your kitchen. The President has a Cabinet that is made up of cabinet members and they have duties and responsibilities. What is a Cabinet? A cabinet is a group of senior officials appointed by the president to advise him on policy. The cabinet meets on a regular schedule, usually weekly, and looks at matters the president wants to discuss. The president appoints all members of the cabinet, but their appointments must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The term “cabinet” comes from the French and refers to a small, private apartment or “closet” where the king met privately with aides and advisors. White House positions that do not require Senate approval include National Security Advisor, Chief Economic Advisor, White House Chief of Staff, White House Press Secretary and Counselor to the President.

These members also make up the Order of Presidential Succession if either the President or Vice-President should die.



Have you ever thought about, the Order of Presidential Succession? Let's find out what the order would be. Distribute the names on numbered cards and allow FCE members to answer the question in the order listed below.

The Speaker of the House  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Secretary of Defense  
Attorney General  
Secretary of the Interior  
Secretary of Agriculture  
Secretary of Commerce  
Secretary of Labor  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development  
Secretary of Transportation  
Secretary of Energy  
Secretary of Education  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

What are the duties of these people listed above?  
Let's see how smart we are about the "Great Capital Cabinet Conundrum" by distributing the handout and allowing members to answer and discuss.

(You might have a small prize for the member that gets the most correct.)

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