

The Presidential Veto and Congressional Veto Override Process

Worksheet 1: Find the Evidence

Analyze a facsimile of a 1973 President Richard Nixon veto and the vetoed bill (S. 518) to gain a greater understanding of the veto process. Identify language within the bill or message as well as other evidence to identify how it satisfies the constitutional requirements of the legislative and veto process.

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 7, clause 2	Evidence of action in the document
Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate	
shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States	
If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections	
to that House in which it shall have originated	
who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it	
If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill	
it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House by which it shall likewise be reconsidered	
if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law	

Discussion Questions:

1. Did this legislation become a public law?
2. How does the veto and override process enable the executive and legislative branches to achieve the constitutional principle of “checks and balances” between branches of government?
3. What did the Founders hope to accomplish by including these powers? Could that goal have been reached in a more effective manner? If so, how?