Executive Unit Summative Assessment

Background:

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| According to the American Constitution, the President of the United States only has a specific amount of powers.  We have learned that Congress was created to be the most powerful branch in the federal government.  In fact, our very first presidents felt that their main purpose was to simply enforce the laws that Congress passed.  So when did this change of limited power to the perception of unlimited power occur?  Beginning in the twentieth century, our American presidents began to view themselves as leaders of the political arena.  Franklin Delano Roosevelt expanded presidential power greatly during a time of economic depression and World War II.  Since the end of his presidency, presidents have continually gained, or are perceived to have gained, more power. |

Task:

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| After analyzing a variety of primary and secondary resources, create an argument based on if you believe presidents have too much power, or is the increased level of power necessary to meet the needs of American citizens.  Support your argument with evidence from materials we discussed in class.  Be sure to include a counter argument with valid support. |

1. Claim: Answer this question, “Do you believe the President of the United States has too much power, or does he have the right amount to be able to run our country?”

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1. Evidence: What evidence do you have from your papers?
2. Political cartoon: What did it say about presidential power?

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1. Roosevelt vs. Taft: Which president supports your claim and why?

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1. Presidential Bios: Which of the five presidents either supports your claim that presidents have too much power, or shows how presidents have enough power?

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1. Conclusion: Restate your claim in different words.

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