

2.5	The Living Constitution	pp. 82-109
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CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS: Answer each question as you read the text.

- A. Do you think Congress is still the branch of the federal government that is most directly responsible to the people? Why or why not?
- B. Do you think electing members of the House of Representatives every two years is a good idea? Why or why not?
- C. Do you think it is important today for the Senate to have more stability than the House of Representatives? If so, why?
- D. Do you think a president should be put on trial for a crime while he or she is still in office? Explain.
- E. Why do you think the chair of the Rules Committee is in a powerful position?
- F. Do you think it should be easier for Congress to override a president's veto? Why or why not?
- G. Why do you think the elastic clause is still important today?
- H. Why are American citizens today so intent on having protections against government violations of their rights?
- I. Why is it important to have an executive who is the chief administrator?

- J. Why is it important to know the order of succession if a president dies in office?

- K. Why is it important that the commander in chief of the armed forces of the United States be a civilian (the president) rather than a military general?

- L. How does the president use the State of the Union address today?

- M. Why do you think the framers of the Constitution created such an elaborate and seemingly difficult procedure for removing a sitting president?

- N. Why is judicial review, although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important activity of the Supreme Court?

- O. Do you think it is fair that a nonresident must pay higher tuition fees at a state college than a resident of the state must pay? Explain.

- P. Suppose a section of Texas should decide to become a new state today. Could it do this? Why or why not?

- Q. What would happen if the national law were not supreme?

- R. Do you think all 50 states would ratify the Constitution today? Why or why not?