

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 326 AMERICAN PRESIDENCY**

Presidential Decision-making  
Tuesday, May 2

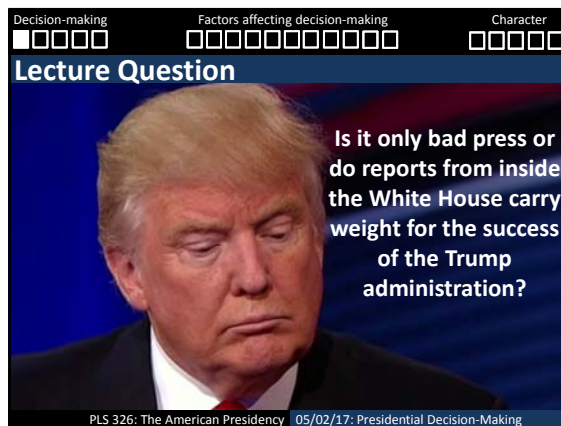
**Outline**

- I. Decision-making
- II. Factors that affect decision-making
- III. Presidential character

Week 6, Day 1

Decision-making:   
Factors affecting decision-making:   
Character:

### Lecture Question

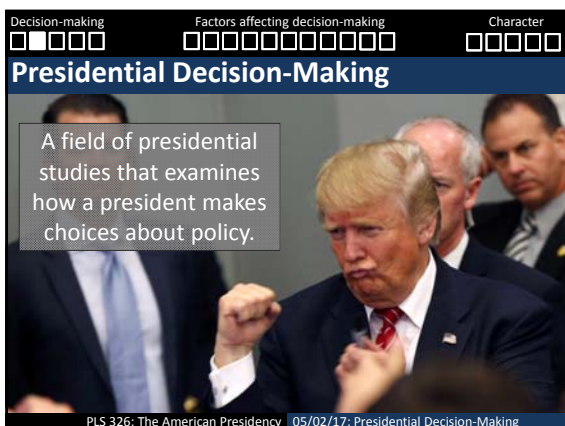


Is it only bad press or do reports from inside the White House carry weight for the success of the Trump administration?

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Decision-making:   
Factors affecting decision-making:   
Character:

### Presidential Decision-Making



A field of presidential studies that examines how a president makes choices about policy.

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Decision-making:   
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Character:

### Why is decision-making important?

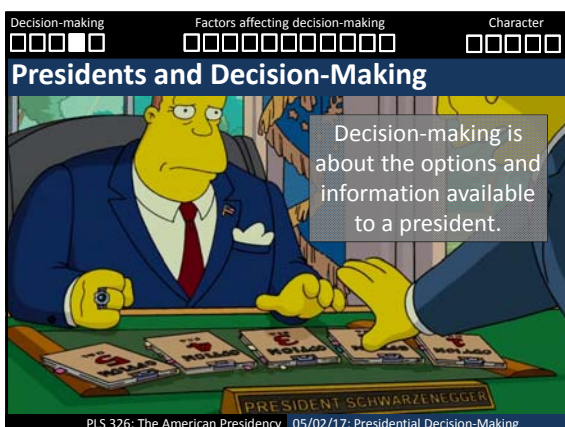


A clear system of decision-making leads to coherent policy.

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Decision-making:   
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### Presidents and Decision-Making

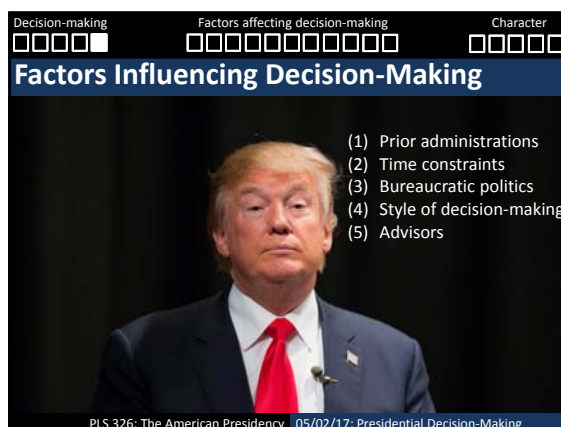


Decision-making is about the options and information available to a president.

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Decision-making:   
Factors affecting decision-making:   
Character:

### Factors Influencing Decision-Making



- (1) Prior administrations
- (2) Time constraints
- (3) Bureaucratic politics
- (4) Style of decision-making
- (5) Advisors

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Decision-making: □□□□ □ Factors affecting decision-making: ■□□□□□□□□□ Character: □□□□

### Prior Administrations




Presidents are affected by a severe amount of constraints posed by their predecessors.

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Decision-making: □□□□ □ Factors affecting decision-making: □□□□□□□□□□ Character: □□□□

### Time Constraints



Presidents only have a certain amount of time to consider the options and information made available to them.

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Decision-making: □□□□ □ Factors affecting decision-making: □□□□□□□□□□ Character: □□□□

### Bureaucratic Politics



Agencies develop their own perspective which leads to a biased presentation of findings.

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### Bureaucratic Autonomy




Bureaucratic agencies also develop their own autonomy, becoming powerful entities themselves.

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### Bureaucratic Structure




Presidents also have to contend with structure as it obstructs policy implementation.

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### Decision-Making Style



Presidents have a distinct decision-making style.

Hierarchical: Central advisers have a key role in the relaying of information to/from the president.

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Decision-making Factors affecting decision-making Character

Decision-Making Style



Presidents have a distinct decision-making style.

Spokes-of-the-Wheel: The president is the hub of decision-making in the White House.

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Comparing Styles




Both styles have their negative aspects, but the most successful presidents will integrate both styles into their decision-making.

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Memos vs. Discussion

Highlighting the differences between styles, presidents can choose to communicate in person or on paper.



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Advisors



Presidents have a hard time finding advisors and staff that disagree with them.

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Keeping Control in the White House

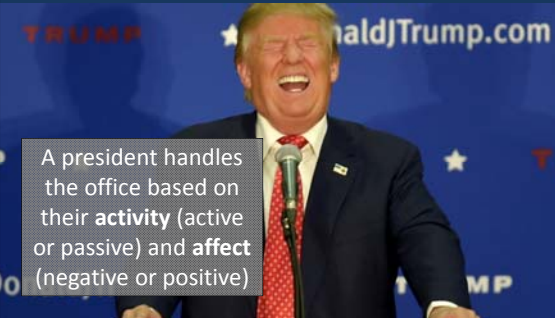


The White House wants to minimize disagreement to the world. The president is responsible for managing disagreements.

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Decision-making Factors affecting decision-making Character

Presidential Character



A president handles the office based on their activity (active or passive) and affect (negative or positive)

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### Active-Positive



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### Active-Negative



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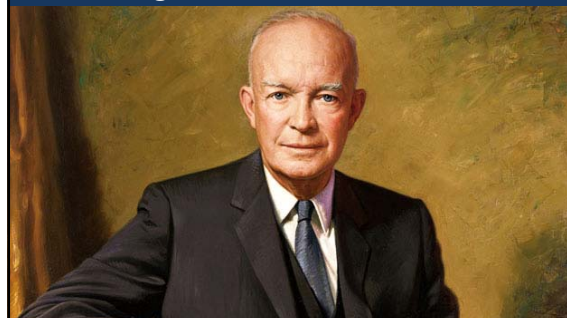
### Passive-Positive



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Decision-making  Factors affecting decision-making  Character

### Passive-Negative



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### Where does your president fall?

<b>Active-Positive</b>	Energetic, productive, well-adjusted, enjoys work
<b>Active-Negative</b>	Hard work, intense, compulsive, aggressive, self-interested
<b>Passive-Positive</b>	Laidback, likes agreement, overcompensates
<b>Passive-Negative</b>	Hates politics, uselessness, low self-esteem

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