

Executive Branch Amendments-SAMPLE ANSWERS

Directions: Using your own words, fill in the graphic organizer after reading the “Executive Branch Amendments Placards”

Amendment	Topic	What did the U.S. Constitution originally say on this topic?	Why was a change needed?	What changed?
12th Amendment [1804]	Electoral College	The individual with the most electoral votes won the presidency and the individual with the second most electoral votes won the vice presidency.	People from opposing parties were paired together as president and vice president and it was counterproductive.	The Electoral College now casts separate votes for president and vice president.
20th Amendment [1933]	Lame-Duck Period	No language on start and end dates of terms.	Twice there were four month gaps during major crises that the newly elected president and Congress could do nothing.	Moved presidential inauguration to January 20th and Congressional term start to January 3rd.
22nd Amendment [1951]	Term Limits	Nothing other than establishing the length of terms for various national offices.	Realization that one individual could be re-elected indefinitely and hold power like a king.	Placed limitation on how long someone can serve as president to two terms or ten years.
25th Amendment [1967]	Presidential Succession and Disability	If the president was no longer in office, the powers and duties of the presidency would “ <i>devolve on the Vice President</i> ”	Lack of clarity and never a great solution for filling the vacant VP seat.	Clarification that the VP does become the new president. Allows new president to appoint a new VP (with Congressional confirmation). Allows for temporary transfer of presidential power.

*Which amendment do you think had the greatest impact on changing the role of the executive branch from its original description in Article II? Explain your answer. **Answers will vary.***