Station #4

Two Term Limit

In 1796, Washington declined a third term of office, setting a two term precedent for future presidents that was not broken until 1940, when Franklin D. Roosevelt successfully ran for a third and later a fourth term in 1944. In 1951, the 22\textsuperscript{nd} amendment was ratified that set a two term limit for president.

George Washington’s Farewell Address (September 19, 1796)

The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the Executive Government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country; and that in withdrawing the tender of service, which silence in my Situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.....


1. No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President, when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.
Foldable instructions

1. Label the fourth flap: 2 Term limit and draw a picture to represent this precedent
2. On the inside flap, summarize the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment
3. Read the excerpt from Washington’s Farewell Address and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, and answer the following
   a. Why do you believe that the Washington’s two term precedent was not broken for over 140 years?
   b. Explain why or why not the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment is an important “check” on presidential power.