

WEST WING EPISODE: TWENTY FIVE

Pre-Write on your own: What does the 25th Amendment say? Translate it into your own words.

Pair-Share: Brain storm and WRITE DOWN all the different reasons why a VP and or the Cabinet would consider the POTUS unfit to handle the responsibility of the Office.

Group-Share: Brain storm and WRITE DOWN all the different reasons why a POTUS would him/herself unfit to handle the responsibility of the Office?

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1. Clarification: The Chief of Staff and head of Secret Service come to inform President Bartlett of what?
2. What does “dropped the net on the city” mean?
3. Why would it be important that CJ, the Press Secretary, not get into the President’s emotional state?
4. As they struggle with the wording of the President’s message—the message is not for sympathy but for a hard line “This country will not be taken hostage”. What does this mean?
5. “There is no mechanism for President recusal”. What do you think the term “recusal” mean?
When a judge or jury member is excused or disqualified because of reason or prejudice or conflict of interest
The President has MS. Therefore there is a concern for his health. It is then stated the Leo, his Chief of Staff, may have to instruct the Sec. of Treasury to suspend trading. What is the problem with the Chief of Staff giving an order to the Sec. of Treasury?
6. The First Lady is told that she cannot make an appeal for her daughter via the TV stations, etc. so that she would get her daughter back. Why not?
7. How does the viewer see the conflict between diplomacy and military action when viewing the role of this President as Commander in Chief?

8. The President is informed that an unidentified airplane is nearing a nuclear reactor in the United States. United States jets have been sent and are on both sides of the unidentified airplane. They are over the water and have a clear shot at the unidentified airplane. What decision must the president make?

9. A war could be imminent. The President worries that he may be thinking like a father and not a president. Leo, Chief of Staff, reassures him that there are people standing around him that will not let him make rash decisions. Again, what is the problem with this?

10. The President wants the Cabinet assembled. Who else does the President wish to see at this point?

11. The newborn baby daughter was named Molly. Who was Molly?

12. Charlie is ordered to have the staff secretaries' office notified that all nonessential executive orders, all non essential correspondence, and all legislation are frozen until further notice. Why?

13. What do you think the significance is of Leo setting his cup down next to the Constitution? What is the message to the viewer?

14. "The President is invoking the 25th Amendment". What do you think is meant by "temporarily handing over power to political enemy"?

15. Section 3 of the 25th Amendment does what?

16. Giving the power to the Speaker of the House was more than giving power. What was its bigger meaning?

17. What is the Cabinet's concern?

18. The Speaker of the House must do what in order to be sworn in as a temporary President.

19. What were the two letters about?

20. The Speaker of the House makes what analogy?