

Handout C: War Powers Resolution Answer Key

1. The reason for this law is to be true to the Founders' intent and make sure both the president and Congress agree when the military should go into combat.
2. The president can only exercise his power as commander in chief when there is a declaration of war, when Congress specifically authorizes him to do so, or when there is a "national emergency" of an attack on the U.S. or the military.
3. The president has to check with Congress before sending troops into combat.
4. If there is no declaration of war, the president has two days to report to Congress on the reasons for the deployment; what authority he had to begin it; and how long he expects it to take place.
5. Troops must be withdrawn within 60 days unless Congress declares war or authorizes the use of force; extends the deadline; or unless Congress cannot meet because of the war.
6. Any time troops are fighting anywhere outside the U.S. without a declaration of war, Congress can tell the president to remove the troops.
7. Accept reasoned answers.