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Impeachment Definitions: Nixon vs Trump

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Impeachment Definitions: Nixon vs. Trump

By: Riann Reinhart

Abuse of Power: A misuse of power by someone in a position of authority who can use the leverage they have to oppress persons in an inferior position or to induce them to commit a wrongful act.

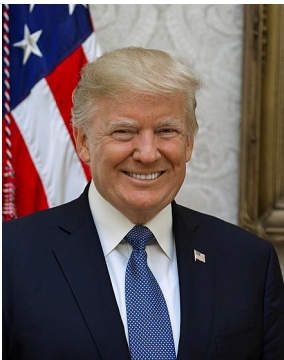
Obstruction of Justice: as an act that corruptly or by threats or force, or by any threatening letter or communication, influences, obstructs, or impedes, or endeavors to influence, obstruct, or impede, the due administration of justice

Obstruction of Congress: an abridged overview of Federal Criminal Laws relating to interference with Congressional activities.

Quid Pro Quo: Latin for something for something an exchange of acts or things of approximately equal value.



1969 - 1974



2017 - 2021

Nixon (Pre Impeachment Trial)

Abuse of Presidential Power - using the office of the presidency on multiple occasions to unlawfully use federal agencies.

Obstruction of Justice - attempting to impede the investigation of the Watergate break-in, protect those involved, and conceal other illegal activities.

Obstruction of Congress - refusal to comply with congressional subpoenas.

Trump (First Impeachment Trial)

Abuse of Presidential Power - arranging a *quid pro quo* with the president of Ukraine.

Obstruction of Justice - attempting to dismiss Robert Mueller during investigation of Russian interference.

Obstruction of Congress - hindering the House's investigation.

With each president, the new standard and the limits are raised to a new level, but presidents that push too far end up with impeachment inquiries. Both President Nixon and President Trump believed they were not doing any wrong. Nixon realized his faults, after the increasing pressure from the impeachment inquiry, and loss of his supporters, which led to him trying to protect his reputation by resigning from office. Trump followed through with the impeachment trial, believing that it would end in an acquittal. Trump also was preparing for another impeachment trial at the end of this time in office.