President Donald Trump's threat to strip federal grant money from sanctuary cities sets up a battle between the new president and more than 300 cities, counties, states and institutions that could play out in the courts and Congress. A sanctuary generally refers to a city or other jurisdiction that asks its local authorities to not check the federal status of immigrants. What the president ... and what the sanctuary areas themselves will do is not yet clear, but the actions do fulfill a pledge that animated Trump's campaign and advances a struggle between Trump and the sanctuary areas that emerged over the months leading up to the election. Chicago has been a sanctuary city since 1985, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel has spoken out strongly about maintaining that status.

*Chicago Tribune, January 26, 2017*

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below.

A. Describe a power the President can use to fulfill his threat described in the scenario.

B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the president’s action can be affected by interaction with Congress.

C. In the context of the scenario, explain how the battle between President and states will be affected by provisions in the U.S. Constitution.
Practice Free Response Question: Type 1 – Concept Application

President Donald Trump's ... threat to strip federal grant money from sanctuary cities sets up a battle between the new president and more than 300 cities, counties, states and institutions that could play out in the courts and Congress. A sanctuary generally refers to a city or other jurisdiction that asks its local authorities to not check the federal status of immigrants. What the president ... and what the sanctuary areas themselves will do is not yet clear, but the actions do fulfill a pledge that animated Trump's campaign and advances a struggle between Trump and the sanctuary areas that emerged over the months leading up to the election. Chicago has been a sanctuary city since 1985, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel has spoken out strongly about maintaining that status.

Chicago Tribune, January 26, 2017

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below.

A. Describe a power the President can use to fulfill his threat described in the scenario.

B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the president's action can be affected by interaction with Congress.

C. In the context of the scenario, explain how the battle between President and states will be affected by provisions in the U.S. Constitution.

Exemplary Answer

A. The President can file lawsuits against the sanctuary-observing cities, counties and states for violating federal law. He can also issue an executive order and withhold federal grant money for local law enforcement agencies.

B. Congress may disagree with the President's decision to cut off grant money to states and cities and pass legislation that requires the government to provide funding without condition.

C. The supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution means that when federal and state laws conflict, the national government has the power to determine the policy. Immigration is a federal power, not a state power reserved by the Tenth Amendment, so the federal laws would trump.