

2. Why is it important that the GAO reports to Congress rather than to the president? (chapter 4)

The federal government's auditing office (GAO), is responsible for reporting the financial records for the year to the Congress, rather than the president. The significance behind the GAO reporting to the Congress rather than the president is to ensure that their auditors are independent, therefore their results are credible. One of the ways that the legislature ensures its independence of the executive is to have them report to the legislature. Our text mentions that an independent auditor ensures that the financial records for that year are an accurate representation of where the public's money went.

At the end of the fiscal year an audit accounts for all of the records and transactions that occurred that year. The audit stage is important because it displays a financial report and is essential to accountability. The purpose of audits is to guarantee that financial transactions are being recorded and reported correctly. The auditing stage is crucial because it acts as a check on the executive, ensuring that the public's money is being spent where it was meant to be spent, rather than public money being spent to advance one's own self interests. It is important that the GAO reports to Congress rather than the president because one of the jobs of the GAO is to ensure the accountability of the federal government to benefit its citizens.

The GAO is one of the most important elements of the auditing process. The GAO is responsible for ensuring that money is being spent where it is supposed to. When the audit records are reported and appropriated at the end of each fiscal year, the GAO acts as a check on the executive branch. The executive no longer has full discretion over the the GAO reports.