



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CLASS NOTES



# The LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Intro To The Legislative Branch

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20 SLIDES TEACHING  
THE DETAILS OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
OF GOVERNMENT!  
GRADES 7-12

### II. Organization

- A. Congress, or the legislature, meets at the U.S. Capitol Building
- B. Is **bicameral** - having two chambers or houses



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### I. Purpose & Influence

- A. **Legislative Branch** - branch of government that makes the laws
- B. Makes laws based upon the wishes of their constituents and congressional district
  - 1. **Constituents** - the citizens that a member of congress represents
  - 2. **Congressional District** - area of the state that a member of the House represents
    - a) A district's size and boundary is determined by its population from the census
    - b) **Census** - population count taken every 10 years
    - c) **Gerrymander** - redrawing a district boundary to benefit a particular party

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### 2. The President

- a) President can sign the bill and it becomes law
- b) President can **veto** - refusal to sign
- c) Congress can override

### IV. How A Bill Becomes A Law

- A. A member of congress submits a **bill** - a proposal being considered by congress for law
  - 1. 10,000 bills are proposed each session with only a few becoming law

### III. Leadership

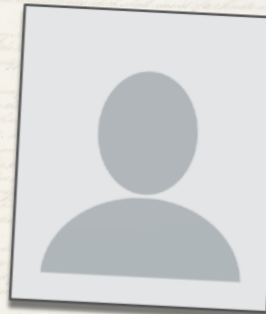
- A. Important leadership positions are determined by the political party with the most members
  - 1. **Majority Party** - political party with the most members
  - 2. **Minority Party** - political party with the second most members

### 2. Senate

- a) Considered the upper house
- b) Term is 6 years
- c) Must be at least 30 years old
- d) Number of members is equal

### 1. House of Representatives

- a) Considered the lower house
- b) Term is 2 years
- c) Must be at least 25 years old
- d) Number of members determined by the state population
  - (1) States with larger population have more members in the House
  - (2) Each state has at least 1 member
  - (3) Our state has \_\_\_ representative(s)
  - (4) 435 total members in the House



Right-click and replace image with your Representative. Delete this text and replace by typing in the name of your Representative.

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# 4 PAGES OF GUIDED FILL-IN-THE-BLANK STUDENT NOTES

COMPLETE ANSWERS  
FOR MODIFIED STUDENTS

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NOTES

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NOTES

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Purpose & Influence**

A. **Legislative Branch** - branch of \_\_\_\_\_ that makes the \_\_\_\_\_

B. Makes \_\_\_\_\_ based upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of their constituents and congressional \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Constituents** - the \_\_\_\_\_ that a member of congress \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Congressional District** - area of the \_\_\_\_\_ that a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ represents

a) A district's \_\_\_\_\_ and boundary is determined by its \_\_\_\_\_ from the census

b) **Census** - \_\_\_\_\_ court taken every \_\_\_\_\_ years

c) **Gerrymander** - \_\_\_\_\_ a district boundary to benefit a particular \_\_\_\_\_

C. Congress is also \_\_\_\_\_ by interest groups & \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Interest groups** - groups of people with similar \_\_\_\_\_ trying to \_\_\_\_\_ legislatures

a) Examples = NAACP, NRA, \_\_\_\_\_, NEA, \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Lobbyists** - \_\_\_\_\_ people that lead and \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups

**II. Organization**

A. Congress, or the \_\_\_\_\_, meets at the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Building

B. Is **bicameral** - having \_\_\_\_\_ chambers or \_\_\_\_\_

1. House of \_\_\_\_\_

a) Considered the \_\_\_\_\_ house

b) Term is \_\_\_\_\_ years

c) Must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old

d) Number of \_\_\_\_\_ determined by the state \_\_\_\_\_

(1) States with \_\_\_\_\_ population have \_\_\_\_\_ members in the House

(2) Each \_\_\_\_\_ has at least \_\_\_\_\_ member

(3) Our state has \_\_\_\_\_ representative(s)

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ total members in the \_\_\_\_\_

2. Senate

a) Considered the \_\_\_\_\_ house

b) Term is \_\_\_\_\_ years

c) Must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old

d) Number of members is \_\_\_\_\_ for each \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Each state has \_\_\_\_\_ senators

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ total members in the \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Leadership**

A. Important \_\_\_\_\_ positions are determined by the political \_\_\_\_\_ with the most members

1. **Majority Party** - \_\_\_\_\_ party with the most \_\_\_\_\_ members

2. **Minority Party** - \_\_\_\_\_ party with the \_\_\_\_\_ most members

3. **Majority Leader** - helps plan and \_\_\_\_\_ the majority party's legislative \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Minority Leader** - helps \_\_\_\_\_ and guide the minority party's legislative \_\_\_\_\_

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**I. Purpose & Influence**

A. **Legislative Branch** - branch of government that makes the laws

B. Makes laws based upon the wishes of their constituents and congressional district

1. **Constituents** - the citizens that a member of congress represents

2. **Congressional District** - area of the state that a member of the House represents

a) A district's size and boundary is determined by its population from the census

b) **Census** - population count taken every 10 years

c) **Gerrymander** - redrawing a district boundary to benefit a particular party

C. Congress is also influenced by interest groups & lobbyists

1. **Interest groups** - groups of people with similar interests trying to sway legislatures

a) Examples = NAACP, NRA, NOW, NEA, AARP, ...

2. **Lobbyists** - hired people that lead and represent interest groups

**II. Organization**

A. Congress, or the legislature, meets at the U.S. Capitol Building

B. Is **bicameral** - having two chambers or houses

1. House of Representatives

a) Considered the lower house

b) Term is 2 years

c) Must be at least 25 years old

d) Number of members determined by the state population

(1) States with larger population have more members in the House

(2) Each state has at least 1 member

(3) Our state has \_\_\_\_\_ representative(s)

(4) 435 total members in the House

2. Senate

a) Considered the upper house

b) Term is 6 years

c) Must be at least 30 years old

d) Number of members is equal for each state

(1) Each state has 2 senators

(2) 100 total members in the Senate

**III. Leadership**

A. Important leadership positions are determined by the political party with the most members

1. **Majority Party** - political party with the most members

2. **Minority Party** - political party with the second most members

3. **Majority Leader** - helps plan and guide the majority party's legislative strategies

4. **Minority Leader** - helps plan and guide the minority party's legislative strategies

EVERYTHING IS  
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# 20 QUESTION REVIEW WORKSHEET FOR POST ASSESSMENT

ANSWER KEYS FOR STUDENT WORKSHEET

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
Review Questions

ANSWER KEY

**Part I - Questions**  
Answer the given questions using the information you have learned about the Legislative Branch.

- What is the primary role of the Legislative Branch?  
- It is the branch of government that makes or creates laws
- Bills can only be submitted by congress. However, name three different sources that can suggest ideas and influence a bill to be written?  
- Constituents (citizens), President, Lobbyists, Interest Groups
- Explain how the Legislative Branch is bicameral?  
- Bicameral means two houses  
- The Legislative Branch has two houses: House of Representatives and the Senate
- What is the Seniority Rule? Do you think the Seniority Rule is a good way to determine leadership positions? Why or Why not?  
- The Seniority rule is members who have served longer get the top leadership positions  
- Answers will vary:  
- Yes = because these members have more experience and will do a better job  
- No = Just because you've been around longer doesn't mean you're the best person for the job. This might limit creativity and ability in these positions
- There are over 10,000 bills submitted during each congressional term, yet only a few hundred survive to become law. Explain why you think the Constitution made it so difficult for a bill to become a law?  
- Answers will vary but should include something to the fact that all the steps will help weed out any poorly written bills, and the long process makes sure that the bills are clearly examined and thought through before becoming law.

**Part II - True or False**  
Label each statement as True or False. If false, correct the statement in the open space below.

- FALSE A committee can ignore a bill which is considered a pocket-veto pigeonhole
- FALSE A census is taken every year to determine a state's population every 10 years
- FALSE Congress can override a Presidential veto with a majority vote 75 vote
- TRUE The President of the Senate and the U.S. Vice President are the same person

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**Part IV - Chronological Order**  
Using numbers 1-10, number each stage in the correct, chronological order on how a bill becomes a law.

a. <u>6</u> Bill gets a majority vote in both houses	f. <u>8</u> Bill gets vetoed by the President
b. <u>2</u> Bill goes to committee for review	g. <u>5</u> Bill gets voted upon in its house
c. <u>9</u> Bill gets 75% majority vote in both houses	h. <u>1</u> Bill is submitted by member of congress
d. <u>7</u> Bill goes to the President	i. <u>3</u> Bill passes committee
e. <u>4</u> Bill discussed on the floor of its house	j. <u>10</u> Bill becomes law

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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
Review Questions

**Part I - Questions**  
Answer the given questions using the information you have learned about the Legislative Branch.

- What is the primary role of the Legislative Branch?
- Bills can only be submitted by congress. However, name three different sources that can suggest ideas and influence a bill to be written?
- Explain how the Legislative Branch is bicameral?
- What is the Seniority Rule? Do you think the Seniority Rule is a good way to determine leadership positions? Why or Why not?
- There are over 10,000 bills submitted during each congressional term, yet only a few hundred survive to become law. Explain why you think the Constitution made it so difficult for a bill to become a law?

**Part II - True or False**  
Label each statement as True or False. If false, correct the statement in the open space below.

- A committee can ignore a bill which is considered a pocket-veto
- A census is taken every year to determine a state's population
- Congress can override a Presidential veto with a majority vote
- The President of the Senate and the U.S. Vice President are the same person

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**Part III - Answer**  
Explain how as

- Lobbyist
- Majority
- Express
- Veto / P

**Part IV - Match**  
Match each st

A. 25 years c	D. Writes an
G. 100 total	J. Represent
M. Time limit	

**Part IV - Chronological Order**  
Using numbers 1-10, number each stage in the correct, chronological order on how a bill becomes a law.

e. <u>      </u> Bill gets a majority vote in both houses	f. <u>      </u> Bill gets vetoed by the President
b. <u>      </u> Bill goes to committee for review	g. <u>      </u> Bill gets voted upon in its house
c. <u>      </u> Bill gets 75% majority vote in both houses	h. <u>      </u> Bill is submitted by member of congress
d. <u>      </u> Bill goes to the President	i. <u>      </u> Bill passes committee
e. <u>      </u> Bill gets discussed on the floor	j. <u>      </u> Bill becomes law

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# We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## Article 1

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not, when elected, be seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and including indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Electors in that State, the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Electors in that State shall choose one to fill such Vacancies.

Section 4. The House of Representatives shall choose their other Officers, and the Senate shall choose their other Officers, and both shall meet at such Time and Place as they shall determine: but the Session of each House shall begin at the City of New York, and shall continue until they shall adjourn to another City, which shall be named before they next meet.

Section 5. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 6. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 7. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 8. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 9. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 10. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 11. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 12. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 13. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 14. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 15. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 16. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 17. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.



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