

Name: _____

Government In America, Chapter 12

Big Idea Questions	Guided Notes	Areas of Concern
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Representatives and Senators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Members:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____ in total - 100 Senators and 435 members of the House• Requirements to be a member of Congress:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• House Requirements - at least 25 years old, citizen for 7 years• Senate Requirements - at least 30 years old, citizen for 9 years• All members must live in the _____ they represent• Most members are white males• _____ representation - being nearly identical to constituents in terms of personal and political characteristics<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rarely happens• _____ representation - represent interests of groups• Why Aren't There More Women in Congress?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women are nominated by major parties at a smaller rate (31% in 2008)• Women with children tend to be less ambitious than those without when it comes to running for office <p style="text-align: center;">Congressional Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who Wins Elections?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____ - those that hold an office and are running for re-election<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incumbents often win elections<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1994 Congressional Elections - significant changes<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____% of senators and _____% of representatives won that were incumbents• Incumbency is more powerful in the House than Senate - why?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate serves a _____, more diverse population• Senators tend to have less _____ with constituents• Senate seat is more prestigious, tend to get more competition• The Advantages of Incumbency:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____ - sort of - 28% of Americans could name their House member• Members focus on advertising, credit claiming, and position	

taking

- Advertising
 - Frequent contact with constituents
 - ** _____ ** - using mail without having to pay for postage
 - Recorded messages, emails, and other technology are often used
- Credit Claiming
 - _____ - helping individuals or groups achieve a goal
 - Helping an individual get \$ from Social Security on time
 - _____ - Federal \$ for local projects - bridges, roads, infrastructure
- Position Taking
 - State where they stand on certain issues and topics
- Weak Opponents
 - House members especially are likely to face weak opponents that have little \$
- Campaign Spending
 - House winners spend over \$1.5 million, Senators over \$8 million!
 - _____ (no incumbent)? The one who spends the most usually wins
- The Role of Party _____
 - For those that identify with a party, they overwhelmingly vote for a House member of the same party
- Defeating Incumbents
 - Negative publicity about incumbent helps challengers
 - States that lost population may see incumbents challenge each other for a seat
 - Political shifts - 1994 and 2006 midterm elections
- Open Seats
 - Largest cause of _____ in Congress is when there is no incumbent
- Stability and Change
 - Is stability good? Can gain more expertise, but also become more entrenched

How Congress Is Organized

- American Bicameralism
 - Bicameral - _____
 - 2 Senators per state, House is based on population - Great Compromise
 - A bill must pass each part of Congress
- The House
 - Parties play an important role - often voting occurs along lines
 - House can _____ and revenue bills originate here
 - _____:
 - Determines when bills will be voted on and how much debate time
 - Members are appointed by the Speaker of the House

What does
impeach mean?

- The Senate
 - Can ratify _____, and try impeachment cases
 - _____ - provides unlimited debate on bills - Strom Thurmond's 24 hour and 18 minute filibuster
 - Cloture - 60 members can vote to end a filibuster; rarely used
- Congressional Leadership
 - Party Leadership plays a significant role
- The House
 - Speaker of the House - chosen by the majority party
 - Often, (s)he is the senior member, _____ in succession to the presidency
 - Chooses _____ assignments
 - Majority Leader schedules bills, gains support for votes
 - _____ - carry messages to party members, count votes prior to being cast
 - Minority Leader - similar role to Majority leader to the party not in power
- The Senate
 - _____ is the president of the Senate
 - Majority Leader - provides a key role in committee assignments, scheduling, etc.
- Congressional Leadership in Perspective
 - Members of Congress still have autonomy in light of the influence of parties in Congress
- The Committees and Subcommittees
 - _____ - deal with different bills (Agriculture committee, Budget, etc.)
 - _____ Committees - Members are from both the House and Senate
 - _____ Committees - formed to reconcile different bills passed by both Houses
 - Select Committees - have a specific duty - intelligence
- Legislation and Oversight
 - 9,000 bills submitted over 2 years!
 - Committees often change bills
 - _____ - monitor agencies and policies established by Congress
- Getting on a Committee
 - Members, especially new ones, want to be appointed to relevant committees
 - Committees help members take part in _____ to constituents
- Committee Chairs and the Seniority System
 - Committee Chairs - schedule hearings, appoint subcommittees, etc.
 - Seniority System - generally used to select chairs, but not required
 - _____ have been established on committee chairs
- Caucuses: The Informal Organization of Congress

- Caucus - Congress members that have _____
 - Caucuses promote interests of their group, similar to an interest group, but members are Congress people
 - Examples? Black caucus, Hispanic caucus, Sunbelt, etc.
- Congressional Staff
 - Personal Staff
 - House members- ____ staff members, Senators - ____!
 - Staff members often help constituents directly, have offices in the districts they represent
 - Also help draft _____
 - Committee Staff
 - 2,000 staff members - help draft reports
 - _____ often focus on committee staff members
 - Staff Agencies
 - Congressional Research Service - tracks the progress of bills
 - Government Accountability Office - provides legal options and settles claims against the government
 - Congressional Budget Office - analyzes the _____

The Congressional Process

- Bill - a proposed law
 - Although anyone can draft (write) a bill, only Congress members can submit them
 - Assigning a bill to multiple _____ simultaneously helps bring more attention to the bill
- Presidents and Congress: Partners and Protagonists
 - President is often called the _____ - can and does propose many bills
 - White House staff members lobby Congress
- Party, Constituency, and Ideology
 - Party Influence
 - Parties are often united in electing Congressional leaders
 - They often disagree on other issues - civil rights
 - Polarized Politics
 - Differences between parties have increased in recent years - Republicans move to the _____, Democrats to the _____
 - _____ is more difficult to obtain
 - State legislatures create House boundaries - often have become increasingly partisan
- Party, Constituency, and Ideology
 - Constituency Opinion Versus Member Ideology
 - Views of Representatives:
 - _____ - "using their best judgement to make policy in the interests of the people" (356)

