

Legislature Homework Questions

Read pp. 123 – 171, 181 – 189, 194 - 203

1. Why is it considered more prestigious to be in the Senate rather than the House? Be thorough in your answer.
2. What is the difference between redistricting and gerrymandering?
3. Evaluate the required qualifications for Representatives and Senators. Be specific.
4. Are Congressional privileges justified? Why or why not?
5. What is the current leadership of the House?(outside research)
6. What is the current leadership of the Senate?(outside research)
7. Why would the Speaker of the House be considered possibly the most powerful person in government and what check is there on that power?
8. Why would Congressmen compete for committee assignments?
9. Why would most political scientists argue that the majority of Congressional work is done in committee?
10. What staff and office support does Congress have for it's work and why is that significant?
11. Who has control of all financial appropriations in the government and why?
12. Why was Congress given the power to declare war instead of the President?
13. Why does the Senate confirm appointees and treaties instead of the House or Congress as a whole?
14. How has Congress used the "elastic clause"? Give specific examples.
15. What powers are specifically denied to Congress and why?
16. What powers does Congress have to investigate and oversee all aspects of the U.S. government?
17. How does a bill become a law?
18. What are the different types of bills and why are those differences important?
19. What are the different types of voting and how are they significant?
20. What is a filibuster and how can it be used and defeated?
21. What is a pocket veto? Be specific
22. What are the different influences on Congressional votes?