

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Congressional Committees: Guided Notes

What are Congressional Committees?

- Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have _____
- Committees are in place in order to make Congress more _____
 - Committees help _____ up the _____
 - It is more efficient to _____ legislature in a small group rather than a large legislative body
 - It allows congress members to develop certain _____ on a topic
- So a congressman from Polk County, Florida would do well on an Agriculture Committee because if he pays attention at all to his constituents he would be an expert on this topic.

Who runs a committee?

- Committee _____
- The Committee Chairman chooses what Bill will be _____ by the Committee
- The Chairs also manage the actual _____ of writing a Bill, which is called _____ - _____, and the _____ on the Bill of the Committee itself

How does a Committee benefit the Politician?

- Once you are _____ a committee it is very _____ to move around and change committee
- Allows Politician to follow what he or she is _____ about
 - If a congressman is interested in national defense he or she can get onto the Armed Services Committee
 - This allows an individual to develop _____ on a subject
- Probably more important is that joining a committee is something a congressman can _____ to and use to help build a profile for reelection.

How do Committees work?

- Any congressman has the power to propose a _____
 - This is called _____
- However this has to _____ to a Committee _____ before going to the rest of the House or Senate
- The Committee Chairman makes the _____ of Bills that the committee will hold
 - This is a remarkably important power called _____
 - The Chairman has the discretion to choose what is _____ of being heard and what is not
- If a Bill doesn't receive enough _____ in the Committee the House or Senate floor will never hear it
 - In this case we say that the Bill _____ in Committee

Types of Committee:

- There are _____ primary types of committees

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- _____ Committees
- Select or _____ Committees
- _____ Committees
- _____ Committees

Standing Committees:

- _____ Committees
- Standing Committees are by far the most important structures in Congress
- These committees deal with _____ - _____ - _____ issues
- The House has _____ committees and the Senate has _____
- _____ Congressman serves on _____ committees
 - Typically, 2 committees

Special Committees:

- Deal with particular issues that are beyond the _____ of standing committees
- Some are temporary others are permanent
 - Usually _____ at the end of the Congressional session
- Narrow _____ on a very _____ topic
- These Committees produce _____ not legislation.

Examples of Special Committees:

- The 105th Congress convened a special committee to _____ the issue of _____
- Congress also has employed select committees to _____ the Iran-Contra and the Watergate Scandal

Joint Committees:

- These committees are composed of members from _____ the House of Representatives and Senate
- They deal with _____ matters pertaining to Congress
- Either _____ or _____
- They tend to produce _____ not legislation

Conference Committees:

- These committees are also composed of House and Senate members
- They have the expressed purpose of _____ the exact _____ of concurrent pieces of legislation that the _____ chambers have passed

What is the importance of Congressional Committees?
