USAFacts

Discussion questions

Why can't Congress get anything done?

Crash Course: Big Questions on US Government • Episode 9

1. The video frames gridlock as partly intentional. Is a slower, harder-to-change government a feature or a flaw? Why?
2. If you were a party leader, would you use positive agenda control to promote unifying bills, negative agenda control to block divisive ones, or both? Explain your reasoning.
3. The video describes the filibuster as something that emerged almost by accident. Should a rule with that kind of history still shape how the Senate operates today?
4. Are omnibus bills, which bundle many provisions into one vote, a practical necessity or a way to avoid accountability?
5. If you could change one rule about how Congress operates to make it more functional, what would it be and why?