

US CONGRESS AND COMMITTEES

Objective: To understand the legislative process, and to explore the variety of committees of the House and Senate and analyze their purpose and significance.

First, be sure you have watched and taken notes on the the 6 short video clips entitled The Legislative Process, located here <https://www.congress.gov/legislative-process>.

Next, go to the US House of Representatives Home Page at <https://www.house.gov/> OR the US Senate Home Page at www.senate.gov. Select one of the standing, special/select, or subcommittees and click on the link.

1. Committee Name _____
2. Who is the CHAIR of the committee? Why do you think this person was selected as the chairperson? Google their background.
3. Who is the RANKING MEMBER of the committee? What does this term mean? What role does the minority party play on a committee?
4. Click on some of the links in "News" and "Key Issues." Identify and explain the variety of issues the committee examines.
5. If a committee "favors" a bill, what are the four actions the committee takes before sending the bill to the full Senate? See "About the Senate Committee System" at http://www.senate.gov/general/common/generic/about_committees.htm.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
6. Explain the most interesting or surprising thing you learned from the committee information.
7. Last, click on "Frequently Asked Questions About Committees." Select **five** questions that you do not know the answer to, or that you would like to learn more about. Report what you discovered here:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

IN CLASS: CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES SPEED DATING

BE SURE YOU CAN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING DURING SPEED DATING.....

A **congressional committee** is a legislative sub-organization in the United States Congress that handles a specific duty (rather than the general duties of Congress). Committee membership enables members to develop specialized knowledge of the matters under their jurisdiction. As "little legislatures", the committees monitor ongoing governmental operations, identify issues suitable for legislative review, gather and evaluate information, and recommend courses of action to their parent body. Woodrow Wilson once wrote, "it is not far from the truth to say that Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in its committee rooms is Congress at work."

1. What is the name of your Congressional Committee?
2. What type of Congressional Committee are you? (Standing, Select/Special, Joint?).
3. What are the key duties of your Congressional Committee?
4. How many members are on your Congressional Committee?
5. What is the title of the person(s) that lead(s) your Congressional Committee?
6. Provide one key way your organization impacts our daily lives?
7. Provide three smaller groups that are within your organization. (For an example, look on page 441 of your text. The diagram on this page shows the Dept of the Interior. Other groups within the Dept of the Interior, include: Bureau of Indian Affairs. National Parks Service, U.S. Geological Survey, etc.