

GOVERNMENT AP

Chapter 11: Congress

Vocabulary

1. Reapportionment	Redistribution of representatives among the states, based on population change. The House is reapportioned after each census.	13. Conference Committee	A temporary committee created to work out differences between the House and the Senate versions of a specific legislation.
2. Impeachment	The formal charging of a government official with "treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanors".	14. Seniority	Year of consecutive service on a particular congressional committee.
3. Incumbent	A current office holder.	15. Oversight	The process of reviewing the operations of an agency to determine whether it is carrying out policies as Congress intended.
4. Gerrymandering	Redrawing a congressional district to intentionally benefit one political party.	16. Speaker of the House	The presiding officer of the House of Representatives.
5. Casework	Solving problems for constituents, especially problems involving government agencies.	17. Majority Leader	The head of the majority party in the Senate; the second-highest-ranking member of the majority party in the House.
6. Descriptive Representation	A belief that constituents are most effectively represented by legislators who are similar to them in such key demographic characteristics as race ethnicity, religion, or gender.	18. Filibuster	A delaying tactic used in the Senate, that involves speechmaking to prevent action on a piece of legislation.
7. Racial Gerrymandering	The drawing of legislative district to maximize the chance that a minority candidate will win the election.	19. Cloture	The mechanism by which a filibuster is cut off in the Senate.
8. Veto	The president's disapproval of a bill that has been passed by both houses of Congress. Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds vote in each house.	20. Constituents	People who live and vote in a government official's district or state.
9. Pocket Veto	A means of killing a bill that has been passed by both houses of Congress, in which the president does not sign the bill and Congress adjourns within ten days of the bill's passage.	21. Trustee	A representative who is obligated to consider the views of the constituents but is not obligated to vote according to those views if he or she believes they are misguided.
10. Standing Committee	A permanent congressional committee that specializes in a particular policy area.	22. Delegate	A legislator whose primary responsibility is to represent the majority view of his or her constituents, regardless of his or her own view.
11. Joint Committee	A committee made up of both House and the Senate.	23. Parliamentary System	A system of government in which the chief executive is the leader whose party holds the most seats in the legislature after an election or whose party forms a major part of the ruling coalition.
12. Select Committee	A temporary Congressional committee created for specific purpose and disbanded after the purpose is fulfilled.		