



Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #8 CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

whip	party	negative	media	congressional
leader	money	speaker	committee	agenda

- ☐ 1. The leader of the House of Representatives is the _____ of the House, and he or she is the third most powerful person in the country.
- ☐ 2. The Majority _____ has the primary task of counting votes on important pieces of legislation, and making the party members vote along with their party.
- ☐ 3. The leader of the Senate is the Majority _____ and he (so far it's always been a he) is elected by the members of his party, which by definition is the majority party, the one with 51 or more members.
- ☐ 4. The primary way that leaders in both the House and Senate exercise power is through _____ assignments.
- ☐ 5. Congressional leaders shape the _____ of Congress, having a huge say in which issues get discussed and how that discussion takes place.
- ☐ 6. Agenda setting is often a _____ power, which means that it is exercised by keeping items *off* the agenda rather than putting them on.
- ☐ 7. _____ access is a pretty handy way to set an agenda for the public.
- ☐ 8. Congressional leaders exercise a lot of power through their ability to raise _____ and to funnel it into their colleague's campaign.
- ☐ 9. When a _____ is more unified it's easier for the leader to set an agenda and get the membership to stick to it.
- ☐ 10. Understanding who the _____ leaders are, and knowing their motivations, can give you a sense of why things do and don't get done by the government.



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Directions: Write one thing you think you know about the topic.

1. _____

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- ☐ 1. The leader of the House of Representatives is the _____ of the House, and he or she is the third most powerful person in the country.
- ☐ 2. The Majority _____ has the primary task of counting votes on important pieces of legislation, and making the party members vote along with their party.
- ☐ 3. The leader of the Senate is the Majority _____ and he (so far it's always been a he) is elected by the members of his party, which by definition is the majority party, the one with 51 or more members.
- ☐ 4. The primary way that leaders in both the House and Senate exercise power is through _____ assignments.
- ☐ 5. Congressional leaders shape the _____ of Congress, having a huge say in which issues get discussed and how that discussion takes place.
- ☐ 6. Agenda setting is often a _____ power, which means that it is exercised by keeping items *off* the agenda rather than putting them on.
- ☐ 7. _____ access is a pretty handy way to set an agenda for the public.
- ☐ 8. Congressional leaders exercise a lot of power through their ability to raise _____ and to funnel it into their colleague's campaign.
- ☐ 9. When a _____ is more unified it's easier for the leader to set an agenda and get the membership to stick to it.
- ☐ 10. Understanding who the _____ leaders are, and knowing their motivations, can give you a sense of why things do and don't get done by the government.



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Answer Key

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Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

whip	party	negative	media	congressional
leader	money	speaker	committee	agenda

- ☐ 1. The leader of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House, and he or she is the third most powerful person in the country.
- ☐ 2. The Majority Whip has the primary task of counting votes on important pieces of legislation, and making the party members vote along with their party.
- ☐ 3. The leader of the Senate is the Majority Leader and he (so far it's always been a he) is elected by the members of his party, which by definition is the majority party, the one with 51 or more members.
- ☐ 4. The primary way that leaders in both the House and Senate exercise power is through committee assignments.
- ☐ 5. Congressional leaders shape the agenda of Congress, having a huge say in which issues get discussed and how that discussion takes place.
- ☐ 6. Agenda setting is often a negative power, which means that it is exercised by keeping items off the agenda rather than putting them on.
- ☐ 7. Media access is a pretty handy way to set an agenda for the public.
- ☐ 8. Congressional leaders exercise a lot of power through their ability to raise money and to funnel it into their colleague's campaign.
- ☐ 9. When a party is more unified it's easier for the leader to set an agenda and get the membership to stick to it.
- ☐ 10. Understanding who the Congressional leaders are, and knowing their motivations, can give you a sense of why things do and don't get done by the government.