



Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #7 CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

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

interests	bill	caucuses	Congress	identity
legislation	speaker	oversight	staff	committees

- ☐ 1. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are divided up into _____ in order to make them more efficient.
- ☐ 2. _____ creates special or select committees to deal with particular issues that are beyond the jurisdiction of standing committees.
- ☐ 3. The main reason is that it's more efficient to write _____ in a smaller group rather than a larger one.
- ☐ 4. Committees allow members of Congress to follow their own _____.
- ☐ 5. Any member of Congress can propose a _____, this is called proposal power, but it has to go to a committee first.
- ☐ 6. Committees exercise _____ by assigning staff to scrutinize a particular law or policy and by holding hearings.
- ☐ 7. Overall Gingrich increased the power of the _____, who was already pretty powerful. The number of subcommittees was reduced, and seniority rules in appointing chairs were changed.
- ☐ 8. There are two types of congressional _____, the staff assistants that each congressperson or senator has to help her or him with the actual job of being a legislator, and the staff agencies that work for congress as a whole.
- ☐ 9. _____ are semi-formal groups of congresspeople organized around particular identities or interests.
- ☐ 10. Committees also serve a political function of allowing congresspeople to build an _____ for voters that should help them get elected.



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

1. _____

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Answer Key

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- ☐ 1. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are divided up into **committees** in order to make them more efficient.
- ☐ 2. **Congress** creates special or select committees to deal with particular issues that are beyond the jurisdiction of standing committees.
- ☐ 3. The main reason is that it's more efficient to write **legislation** in a smaller group rather than a larger one.
- ☐ 4. Committees allow members of Congress to follow their own **interests**.
- ☐ 5. Any member of Congress can propose a **bill**, this is called proposal power, but it has to go to a committee first.
- ☐ 6. Committees exercise **oversight** by assigning staff to scrutinize a particular law or policy and by holding hearings.
- ☐ 7. Overall Gingrich increased the power of the **Speaker**, who was already pretty powerful. The number of subcommittees was reduced, and seniority rules in appointing chairs were changed.
- ☐ 8. There are two types of congressional **staff**, the staff assistants that each congressperson or senator has to help her or him with the actual job of being a legislator, and the staff agencies that work for congress as a whole.
- ☐ 9. **Caucuses** are semi-formal groups of congresspeople organized around particular identities or interests.
- ☐ 10. Committees also serve a political function of allowing congresspeople to build an **identity** for voters that should help them get elected.