

Congressional Committees Worksheet

Congressional Committees: Crash Course U.S. Government #7
Available at <https://youtu.be/ndR50DxT9M> or just youtube/google "Crash Course US Government 7"

1. The **committees** you hear about most are _____, which are relatively permanent and handle the day-to-day business of **Congress**.
 - a. Each committee has a **chairperson**, or _____, who is the one who usually gets mentioned in the _____.
2. Congress creates _____ or _____ to deal with particular issues that are beyond the jurisdiction of standing committees.
3. Other committees are _____ which are created to reconcile a bill when the **House** and **Senate** write different versions of it.
4. What are some reasons why Congress has so many committees?
5. Any member of Congress can propose a bill; this is called _____.
 - a. The chair determines the _____ by choosing which issues get considered. This power to control what ideas do or do not become bills is what political scientists call "_____."
6. There are two types of **congressional staff**, the _____ that each congressman or senator has to help her or him with the actual job of being a legislator, and the _____ that work for Congress as a whole.
 - a. The Congressional reforms after 1946 generally _____ the number of _____ individual staff and _____ the staff of the staff agencies.
7. What are **caucuses**? Give some current-day examples.
8. **Caucuses**, congressional staff, and especially _____ committees, all exist to make the process of _____ lawmaking _____.



Congressional Committees Worksheet: A Comprehensive Guide

Are you struggling to understand the complex world of congressional committees? Do you need a tool to help your students or yourself grasp the structure and function of these powerful bodies? This comprehensive guide provides a detailed look at congressional committees, offering a ready-to-use worksheet to aid in comprehension and retention. We'll explore the roles, responsibilities, and different types of committees, ensuring you're well-equipped to navigate this crucial aspect of the American political system. This post offers a downloadable Congressional Committees Worksheet, complete with explanations and examples to make learning easier and more engaging.

Understanding the Structure of Congressional Committees

The U.S. Congress, composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives, relies heavily on committees to manage its workload. These committees are not simply discussion groups; they hold significant power in shaping legislation and government policy. Understanding their structure is vital to understanding the legislative process.

Types of Congressional Committees

There are three primary types of committees:

Standing Committees: These are permanent committees established by the House and Senate rules. They handle legislation within their specific jurisdictions. Examples include the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. These are the workhorses of Congress, responsible for the majority of legislative action.

Select Committees: These are temporary committees appointed for specific purposes, usually to investigate a particular issue or problem. Once their task is completed, they are dissolved. Examples include committees investigating specific scandals or potential policy failures.

Joint Committees: These committees include members from both the House and the Senate. They often focus on issues of broad national importance that require collaboration between the chambers. Examples include the Joint Economic Committee and the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Conference Committees: These temporary committees are formed when the House and Senate pass different versions of the same bill. Their purpose is to reconcile the differences and create a single version that can be sent to the President for signature.

The Role and Responsibilities of Congressional Committees

The responsibilities of congressional committees are vast and impactful. Their roles include:

Legislative Oversight: Committees monitor the implementation of laws passed by Congress. This ensures that government agencies are carrying out their duties effectively and efficiently.

Bill Drafting and Review: Committees are responsible for drafting, reviewing, and amending proposed legislation. They conduct hearings and invite experts to testify, shaping the content of bills before they are brought to the full House or Senate for a vote.

Budgetary Power: Committees play a significant role in the budget process, allocating funds to different government programs and agencies.

Investigation and Hearings: Committees conduct investigations into issues of public concern, holding hearings to gather evidence and testimony. These investigations can lead to significant policy changes or even legal action.

Confirmation of Presidential Appointments: The Senate confirms presidential appointments to key positions in the executive branch, with relevant committees playing a crucial role in the vetting process.

Using the Congressional Committees Worksheet

The following worksheet is designed to help you consolidate your understanding of congressional committees. You can use it as a study guide, a classroom tool, or a handy reference. [Link to downloadable worksheet – This would be a downloadable PDF or Google Doc in a real-world application]

Completing the Congressional Committees Worksheet

The worksheet will likely include sections asking you to:

Identify the type of committee: Match descriptions or examples of committees to the appropriate category (standing, select, joint, conference).

List key responsibilities: Outline the main roles and functions of congressional committees.

Analyze committee activities: Examine examples of committee actions and their impact.

Research specific committees: Investigate the work of particular committees relevant to current events.

By completing this worksheet, you will gain a clearer understanding of the intricate workings of the U.S. Congress and the significant influence wielded by its various committees.

Conclusion

Understanding the structure and function of congressional committees is critical for comprehending the American political system. This guide and the accompanying worksheet provide a framework for gaining this understanding. By actively engaging with the material, you will not only improve your knowledge but also develop a deeper appreciation for the complexity and importance of legislative processes. Remember to utilize the worksheet and its accompanying information to solidify your understanding of this fundamental aspect of American governance.

FAQs

Q1: What is the difference between a standing committee and a select committee?

A1: Standing committees are permanent, handling legislation within specific areas. Select committees are temporary, formed to address specific issues or investigations.

Q2: How can I find information about the activities of specific congressional committees?

A2: You can access information on the websites of the House and Senate, which include committee rosters, meeting schedules, reports, and legislative activity.

Q3: Why are congressional committees so important?

A3: Committees are crucial because they filter legislation, conduct oversight, and specialize in specific policy areas, making the legislative process more efficient and effective.

Q4: What happens if the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill?

A4: A conference committee is formed to reconcile the differences, creating a single version for final approval.

Q5: Can I use this worksheet for educational purposes?

A5: Absolutely! This worksheet is designed to be a valuable educational resource for students and teachers alike, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of congressional committees.

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congressional committees worksheet: Report of the Congressional Committees Investigating the Iran-Contra Affair United States. Congress. Senate. Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition, 1988

congressional committees worksheet: Setting Course Craig Schultz, 1994

congressional committees worksheet: *The U. S. Congress* Lauren Cohen Bell, 2022 Learn by doing with Bell's THE U.S. CONGRESS: A SIMULATION FOR STUDENTS, Second Edition, where you step into the role of House of Representatives member and engage in role-playing activities to understand the inner workings of Capitol Hill. As you join a political party, write legislation, craft strategies to shepherd legislation through committee hearings, participate in floor debates and report back to your constituents at home, you experience Congress through a range of intellectual, emotional, political and strategic connection points. Applying class readings to your simulation role-playing brings chapter concepts to life, and working through real-world challenges gives you unique insight into the role of Congress in the American political system.

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Committees for the White House Conference on Aging United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, 1960

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congressional committees worksheet: Congressional Record Index , 1993 Includes history of bills and resolutions.

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congressional committees worksheet: *Representing Congress* Clifford K. Berryman, James Zimmerhoff, 2017-08-30 INTRODUCTION Representing Congress presents a selection of political cartoons by Clifford K. Berryman to engage students in a discussion of what Congress is, how it works, and what it does. It features the masterful work of one of America's preeminent political cartoonists and showcases his ability to use portraits, representative symbols and figures, and iconic personifications to convey thought-provoking insights into the institutions and issues of civic life. The House of Representatives and Senate take center stage as nationally elected officials work to realize the ideals of the Founders. This eBook is designed to teach students to analyze history as conveyed in visual media. The cartoons offer comments about various moments in history, and they challenge the reader to evaluate their perspective and objectivity. Viewed outside their original journalistic context, the cartoons engage and amuse as comic art, but they can also puzzle a reader with references to little-remembered events and people. This eBook provides contextual information on each cartoon to help dispel the historical mysteries. Berryman's cartoons were originally published as illustrations for the front page of the Washington Post and the Washington Evening Star at various dates spanning the years from 1896 to 1949. Thirty-nine cartoons selected from the more than 2,400 original Berryman drawings preserved at the Center for Legislative Archives convey thumbnail sketches of Congress in action to reveal some of the enduring features of our national

representative government. For more than 50 years, Berryman's cartoons engaged readers of Washington's newspapers, illustrating everyday political events as they related to larger issues of civic life. These cartoons promise to engage students in similar ways today. The cartoons intrigue and inform, puzzle and inspire. Like Congress itself, Berryman's cartoons seem familiar at first glance. Closer study reveals nuances and design features that invite in-depth analysis and discussion. Using these cartoons, students engage in fun and substantive challenges to unlock each cartoon's meaning and better understand Congress. As they do so, students will develop the critical thinking skills so important to academic success and the future health and longevity of our democratic republic.

2 | R E P R E S E N T I N G C O N G R E S S

SHOW THIS eBook IS ORGANIZED This eBook presents 39 cartoons by Clifford K. Berryman, organized in six chapters that illustrate how Congress works. Each page features one cartoon accompanied by links to additional information and questions.

TEACHING WITH THIS eBook Representing Congress is designed to teach students about Congress—its history, procedures, and constitutional roles—through the analysis of political cartoons. Students will study these cartoons in three steps:

- * Analyze each cartoon using the NARA Cartoon Analysis Worksheet*
- * Analyze several cartoons to discuss how art illustrates civic life using Worksheet 2*
- * Analyze each cartoon in its historic context using Worksheet 3 (optional)

Directions:

1. Divide the class into small groups, and assign each group to study one or more cartoons in the chapter Congress and the Constitution.
2. Instruct each group to complete Worksheet 1: Analyzing Cartoons. Direct each group to share their analysis with the whole class.
3. Instruct each group to complete Worksheet 2: Discussing Cartoons. Students should apply the questions to all of the cartoons in the chapter. Direct each group to share their analysis in a whole-class discussion of the chapter.
4. Repeat the above steps with each succeeding chapter.
5. Direct each group to share what they have learned in the preceding activities in a whole-class discussion of Congress and the Constitution.
6. Optional Activity: Assign each group to read the Historical Context Information statement for their cartoon. The students should then use the Historical Context

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United States. Congress. Joint Committee on Printing, 1990

congressional committees worksheet: Government by the People Magleby, 2000-08-11

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1993 The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. The Congressional Record began publication in 1873. Debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States* (1789-1824), *the Register of Debates in Congress* (1824-1837), and *the Congressional Globe* (1833-1873)

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