

Unit Learning Objectives

The Legislative Branch

(Chapter 11)

Section 1:

- 1) Describe the role of Congress in the U.S. constitutional system
- 2) Define bicameralism
- 3) Explain gerrymandering and the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives
- 4) Discuss the three kinds of powers granted to Congress

Section 2:

- 5) Explain how fundamental characteristics of the House and Senate shape their elections
- 6) Discuss campaign funding and the effects of incumbency in the House and Senate
- 7) Analyze the way congressional elections can sometimes become nationalized

Section 3:

- 8) Explain the basics of representation
- 9) Describe the extent to which Congress as a body represents the U.S. population
- 10) Explain the concept of collective representation
- 11) Describe the forces that influence congressional approval ratings

Section 4:

- 12) Explain the division of labor in the House and in the Senate
- 13) Describe the way congressional committees develop and advance legislation

Section 5:

- 14) Explain the steps in the classic bill-becomes-law diagram