

Chapter 12: Congress

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

1. Describe the essential roles and functions of a senator and representative.
2. Examine the role of money in congressional elections—where it comes from, how it is used, and what influence or effect it has.
3. Summarize both the advantages and disadvantages of the growing influence of PACs.
4. Contrast organizational style and procedures in the House of Representatives with those of the Senate.
5. Identify the major leadership positions in the House and Senate and summarize the functions of each office.
6. Review the four types of congressional committees and explain how they control the congressional agenda and guide legislation.
7. Determine the significance of legislative procedures like the *filibuster* and *oversight*.
8. Outline the process by which a bill would move through the legislative process, from introduction to the point where it is sent to the president.
9. Contrast three theories of the role of a legislator: *trustee*, *instructed delegate*, and *politico*.
10. Appraise the influence of lobbyists and interest groups on the legislative process.
11. Identify both representative and unrepresentative aspects of Congress.
12. Examine the effect that the U.S. Congress has had on the *scope* of government.