

Name:

Legislative Branch

Date:

Background

The United States Constitution has three parts: the preamble, the articles, and the amendments. The preamble is the introduction to the Constitution and the amendments are changes made to the Constitution and the rights that all citizens have. The articles are the bulk of the Constitution and, essentially, describe how the government will work. There are seven articles, each one talking about a different aspect of the government, with the first three focusing on the three branches of government.

The first article is the longest and it describes how the legislative branch of the government, also known as Congress, will be run and organized. In short, the job of the legislative branch is to make the laws, but the powers that the Constitution gives this branch are much more extensive than just that. Congress has three types of powers:

- Expressed powers: Those powers directly written in the Constitution
- Implied powers: Powers not written in the Constitution but needed to perform the expressed powers
- Inherent powers: Powers that belong to all governments

Some of the main powers that Congress has, across all three categories, are the power to:

- To make, pass, or change laws
- To declare war
- To levy taxes (decide how much people have to pay the federal government in taxes)
- Organize all federal courts under the Supreme Court
- To borrow money
- Set a national minimum wage
- Acquire new territories (add new lands to the country or gain control of new areas)
- Control the national borders

Congress is divided up into two branches or "houses": the upper house, also known as the Senate, and the lower house, also known as the House of Representatives. These two houses have to work together to carry out the powers assigned to Congress. Each house is different and has different requirements to be a member, a different number of representatives, different leaders, etc. Below is an outline of the basic facts for the Senate and the House of Representatives.

House of Representatives	Senate
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is known as the lower house• Called a representative• Led by the Speaker of the House• Serve a 2 year term• 435 total members• Representatives per state are based on population• Elected by voters from their congressional district (area they serve)• Must be 25 years old• Must be a U.S. citizen for 7 years• Must live in the state they are elected to represent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is known as the upper house• Call a senator• Led by the Vice-President• Serve a 6 year term• 1/3 of the senate is elected every 2 years• 100 total members• 2 senators are elected per state• Elected by voters in the state they represent• Must be 30 years old• Must be a U.S. citizen for 9 years• Must live in the state they are elected to represent

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Day in the Life of a Member of Congress

For this assignment you will be pretending that you are a member of the United States Congress. You will be writing in the first person, as though you are currently in either the House of Representatives or the Senate. You will need to write about what your life is like and some of the things you may do on a daily basis. Your writing can be in any format you would like (journal entry, letter to a friend, news article, etc.) it just must be written in first person.

In your writing you must include certain key words/phrases that deal with the legislative branch. These words/phrases do not need to be discussed at length; you only need to mention them in your writing. You must include:

- Senate
- House of Representatives
- Legislative branch
- “Job” of the legislative branch
- 2 of the qualifications to become a member of the House or Senate
- 2 powers of Congress

There is no length to this paper. You simply need to write clearly with appropriate grammar, write in the first person, and include all 7 required words/phrases.

Grading

- 7 key words/phrase are included (1 point per) _____/7
- Written in the first person _____/2
- Written clearly with appropriate grammar _____/6
- Total _____/15

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Legislative Branches Powers Imagery

The legislative branch has a multitude of powers. Your assignment is to pick any 6 of the powers that the legislative branch has and draw an image that represents that power. Your images do not need to be works of art, but they should show effort (not just stick people). Be creative!

Power _____	Power _____
Power _____	Power _____
Power _____	Power _____