

Wilson 16 Chapter 13 Assignment

1. What does it mean to be a bicameral legislature?
2. In what ways can it be seen that the framers expected congress to be the dominant institution of government?
3. How does the incumbent reelection rate undermine people's approval rating of congress?
4. Define political cleavage.
5. Identify five important powers of congress in Table 13.1.
6. What are the qualifications to serve in the House of Representatives?
7. What are the qualifications to serve in the Senate?
8. If congress means "a coming together" how does the hyper partisanship in our recent congresses undermine this idea?
9. Compare and contrast running for congress and parliament.
10. Why can members of congress not worry about always satisfying party leadership?
11. Summarize the 2nd full paragraph of the second column on page 294. This is the essence of what congress does and how it does it.
12. What is the franking privilege?
13. What makes congress decentralized?
14. How do the House and Senate empower people and the states?
15. How many members are in the House of Representatives?
16. How was the selection procedure changed for senators?
17. What are the special powers of the House?
18. What are the special powers of the Senate?
19. What is the filibuster? Who can use it?
20. How does rule 22 in the senate work?
21. Trump has called for eliminating the filibuster because Democrats are delaying his agenda. Why would eliminating the filibuster be a mistake?
22. Identify three trends in Figure 13.1 and explain the ramifications of these trends as it relates to legislating.
23. While majority-minority districts increase minority representation in congress, what does the supreme court have to say about districts gerrymandered for race?
24. Compare and contrast descriptive and substantive representation.
25. Why is Figure 13.2 daunting to congressional challengers?
26. Compare and contrast marginal and safe districts.
27. How do safe districts undermine the "drain the swamp" mentality?
28. What are the advantages of incumbents?
29. How does constituent service or casework empower incumbents with their voters?
30. Why do the demographic distribution patterns of Democratic voters with Republicans winning control of congress?
31. Explain the idea of representational behavior by members of congress.
32. Explain the idea of organizational behavior by members of congress.
33. Why would a member of congress choose attitudinal behavior to guide their decision making?
34. How would water issues be a reason for Devin Nunes to use representational behavior?
35. What factors work against forcing members of congress to act in a representational manner?
36. What role do Democrats see for government in society?
37. What role do Republicans see for government in society?
38. Within congress, what is a caucus? Give example and explain what they stand for.
39. How are members of congress and their constituencies often ideologically different?
40. Why do political activists get their way more than the general public?
41. How is the senate *pro tempore* not an important leadership position?

42. Who is the presiding officer of the senate?
43. Why does the majority leader have the power to run the senate?
44. How are whips important to the legislative process?
45. What are the powers of the speaker of the house?
46. The House have 12 standing exclusive and major committees while the senate has 12 standing major committees. If the House and the Senate are both 60% Republican what will membership on each of these committees look like? Use % or fractions.
47. What then does this say about who is going to get their way in congress?
48. Identify the purpose of the three kinds of committees.
49. How and why are conference committees necessary?
50. The Speaker and Majority Leader choose who represents them in a conference committee, how does the type of person they select determine the outcome of the committee's vote? Think willingness to compromise.
51. What do we know about the selection process of choosing committee chairs?
52. What is the value of congressional staffers? What do they do?
53. What are the duties of the GAO?
54. Why can't members of congress do without the CBO?
55. What happens to proposed bills that aren't completed by the end of the term?
56. How are joint resolutions more important than simple or concurrent resolutions?
57. How does choosing which committee to send a bill to affect its prospects of passage?
58. Where must all revenue raising bills begin?
59. What are appropriations?
60. What function does the House Ways and Means committee fulfill?
61. What happens to most bills that are introduced in congress?
62. What happens to bills within a committee?
63. What is required for a bill to get out of committee? Can a party achieve this without votes from the other side?
64. How does discharge petition work?
65. Why would a discharge petition be used?
66. Compare and contrast open, closed, and restrictive rules.
67. How does the rule choice assigned by the rules committee affect a bill's final passage?
68. Why are riders used?
69. When is cloture used in the Senate?
70. How is double-tracking used to prevent the Senate to grind to a halt?
71. Why is the removal of the ability to filibuster judicial nominees likely to result in more ideological/partisan court rulings?
72. How are recess appointments used?
73. How can a senate hold be used to allow a single senator or group of senators to get their way about an unrelated issue. Use: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article24574054.html>
74. Compare and contrast the four methods of voting in congress.
75. Why must a conference committee be used?
76. How can congress override a veto?
77. What are the advantages and disadvantages of divided government?
78. Why is united government potentially dangerous?
79. Why did the framers make the legislative process slow and difficult?
80. What is log rolling?
81. Pork barrel spending isn't all bad. Explain.
82. What is the main driving force of recent budget deficits?
83. What does the 27th Amendment do?
84. How does the Hastert Rule hinder the ability to get bipartisan legislation passed while giving the minority party no chance to make a name for itself?