**Congressional Districts**

* **Single-Member:** 
  + The voters in each District elect on of the State’s Representatives.
* **At-Large:** 
  + Elected from the State as a whole, rather than from a particular district.
* **Gerrymandering:** 
  + Districts that have been drawn to the advantage of the political party that controls the State’s legislature.

**The Senate:**

* Originally the Senate was chosen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Legislatures
* **Continuous Body:** 
  + A governing unit whose seats are never all up for election at the same time.

**Congressional Duties:**

* Legislatures
* Committee members
* Representatives of their constituents
* politicians

**Officers of the Legislative Branch:**

* Speaker of the House
  + Presiding \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the House
  + Job: acknowledges speakers, signs bills, and appoints committees, calls a vote.
* President of the Senate-
  + V.P.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ power
  + Presiding officer but may not speak or debate
* President pro tempore
  + Resides in V.P.’s absence
  + Elected by the Senate
* Majority Party Leader
* Floor leaders:
  + majority and minority in the House and Senate
  + Legislative strategists
* Committee Chairmen
  + Heads of standing committees
  + Chosen by majority
  + Usually by seniority rule

**Committees in Congress:**

* **Standing committee:** 
  + permanent groups which all similar bills could be sent. (Ex. Budget committee)
* **Select committee-** 
  + a special group set up for a specific purpose for a limited time. (ex. Senate Watergate Committee)
* **Joint Committees-** 
  + members from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ houses.
* **Informal groupings-** 
  + Black caucus, democratic study group, House Republican study group, pro-Life caucus, etc.
* **Conference Committee-** 
  + temporary joint body to iron out different versions of a measure

**SESSIONS:**

* A session of Congress is that period of time during which, each year, Congress assembles and conducts business.
* There are two sessions to each term of Congress, one each year.
* Article II, Section III Of the Constitution does give the President the powers to **Porogue.**
  + End, Discontinue a session, but only when the two houses cannot agree on a date for adjournment. No President has ever had to use that power.

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

* Only the President may call Congress into Special Session.
  + A meeting to deal with some emergency situation. Only 26 special sessions of Congress have even been held.