**Article I: The Legislative Branch of the Federal Government**

**The National Legislature – Congress**

* A Bicameral Congress – A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ legislature was created
  + - The House of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Reasons for a Bicameral Legislature**
  + Historical
    - British \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is two houses
    - Most state houses in colonial times were two houses
  + Practical
    - To settle conflict between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ states
    - Reflection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Theoretical
    - So each house can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the other
    - Diffuse government so it wouldn’t overwhelm the other two branches
    - Allow for all states to be equal
* **Terms and Sessions**
  + Terms of Congress
    - A term lasts for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years
    - The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ changed the date and start of the term to January 3rd of every odd numbered year
  + Sessions of Congress
    - A session of Congress is that period of time during which Congress assembles and conducts business
    - There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_sessions of Congress during a term
  + Congress adjourns or suspends each session as it sees fit
  + Special Sessions
    - Only the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_may call a special session
    - Usually to deal with emergency issues
    - Senate can be called for a special session as it sees fit

**The House of Representatives**

* Size and Terms
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_members
  + Seats \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (distributed) based on a state’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + All states have at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ member
  + Members serve a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ year term
* **Reapportionment**
  + Seats are redistributed every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_years with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Number of seats grew with almost every census, 106 to 142 by 1800 and 1910 up 435
  + The Reapportionment Act of 1929
    - Set permanent size to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Congressional Elections**
  + Date – all Congressional elections are held on the same day
    - Tuesday after the 1st Monday in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Alaska is the only exception and can hold it in Oct. if they want
  + Off year Elections
    - Congressional elections which occur in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years
    - The party that holds the presidency tends to lose seats in the off years
* **Districts**
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the US
  + 428 in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ states
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ states themselves are districts
    - Montana
    - Wyoming
    - North Dakota
    - South Dakota
    - Alaska
    - Delaware
    - Vermont
  + Single member districts – electoral district from which one person is chosen by the voters for each elected office
  + State legislatures draw district lines
    - Must be compact
    - Must be nearly equal in number
    - NOT ALWAYS THE WAY IT REALLY IS!!!
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – drawing of district lines to the advantage of a party**
  + Can still be seen and takes one of two forms
    - To concentrate the opposition’s voters in one or a few districts, thus leaving the other districts safe for the dominant party
    - To spread the opposition thin among several districts, thus limiting the opposition’s ability to win
  + The objective is to create as many “safe” districts as possible for the dominant party
  + Named after Gov. Elbridge Gerry of Mass.
  + Wesberry v. Sanders (1964)
    - * Georgia congressional districts population differences were so great they were in violation of the Constitution
      * Districts must be formed in as equal number as possible
* **Qualifications of a Member of the House** 
  + Formal Qualifications
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old
    - Citizen of the US for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years
    - Inhabitant of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ elected
    - The House is the “Judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members”
    - Can refuse to seat a member elect my majority vote
    - Can punish and expel if necessary

**The House of Representatives and Senate**

* + Informal Qualifications
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_identification
    - Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Gender/ethnic characteristics
    - Political experience
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Speaking Ability
    - Views on Issues
    - Fund raising ability

**The Senate (the upper house)**

* **Size, Election and Terms**
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ members
    - Framers hoped that the smaller Senate would be more “enlightened”
    - Represents a larger population and therefore larger interests
  + Election
    - Originally chosen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ changed to direct election of Senators
  + Term
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ year term
    - Every two years \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Senate is up for election
    - Longer term allows Senators to have less pressure from interest groups and public opinion
* **Qualifications for Senators**
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old
  + Citizens of the US for at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years
  + Inhabitant of the state from which he/she was elected
  + The Senate is the “Judge of the elections, returns and qualification of its own members”
  + Can refuse to seat a member elect by majority vote
  + Can punish and expel if necessary

**The Members of Congress**

* + Personal and Political Backgrounds
    - Typically white male in mid-50s
    - Women and African Americans are represented
    - Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are in the House
    - Most are married
    - Many have children
    - Most have some religious affiliation
    - Many are lawyers
    - Nearly all went to college and many have advanced degrees
    - Some have $$ but some rely on their salary

**The Job (Five Roles)**

* **1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (law makers)**
* **2.** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + They represent people
  + On what basis do Congressmen cast their votes?
  + Trustee: believe that each question they face must be decided on its merits
  + Delegates: agents of who elected them and vote like the “folks” back home would want
  + Partisans: vote along party lines
  + Politicos: try to balance all 3 and vote accordingly
* **3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Screening of bills
  + Oversight of various agencies in the Executive Branch
* **4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Tries to help “folks back home” deal with problems of bureaucracy
  + Some believe that members should do them favors for their community
* **5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Compensation**

* Salary
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Speaker of the House \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + President Pro Tempore \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Nonsalary Compensation
  + Special tax deduction based on dual residences
  + Travel allowances
  + Low cost of medical care
  + Generous retirement plan
  + Offices in either the office building near the Capitol and allowances for offices in home state and operating costs
  + Franking privilege \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Politics of Pay**

* + Presidential veto is one limit to congressional pay
  + Fear of voter backlash
  + Pay must be fairly equal to responsibility and need for qualified people
  + 27th Amendment – Congressional pay raises do not take effect until the following term

**Membership Privileges**

* + Cannot be arrested going to or from a session
  + Cannot be taken to court for what is said in session
  + Member may not defame another person in a public speech, etc.