**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.