

*American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course*

Guided Reading

Section 4.3: The Organization of Congress

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

 **Before you read**

**Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.**

**Learning Target:** Compare the authority and roles affecting the policymaking process in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**AP® Key Concepts**

Speaker of the House

political action committee (PAC)

House majority leader

whip

minority leader

Senate majority leader

committee chair

 **While you read**

**Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.**

Roles of House of Representatives	Roles of Senate	Influence on policymaking

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 **After you read**

**Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.**

1. The Constitution never dictated the formal structure of Congress; this was up to the:
  - A. committees.
  - B. voters.
  - C. political parties.
  - D. interest groups.
  
2. The Speaker of the House is the:
  - A. leader of the party in the minority.
  - B. figure head of the House.
  - C. only position that is described in the Constitution.
  - D. House majority leader.
  
3. Making money and friends is the purpose of the:
  - A. House majority leader.
  - B. Speaker of the House.
  - C. political action committees.
  - D. appropriations committee.
  
4. The House majority whip is responsible for:
  - A. collecting information on how members of the party are going to vote.
  - B. chairing a committee.
  - C. helping to solicit donations.
  - D. making sure representatives attend each session of the House.

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5. The Senate majority leader is selected by the party in the majority and is the:
  - A. leader of the Senate.
  - B. most powerful position in the Senate.
  - C. president pro tempore of the Senate.
  - D. deciding vote in a tie.
  
6. The committee chair has the authority to:
  - A. require committee members to vote on every bill.
  - B. set the agenda in committee.
  - C. set the agenda for Congress.
  - D. break ties on votes.
  
7. In Congress, the standing committees are created to:
  - A. focus public attention on special issues and are temporary.
  - B. merge the House and Senate versions of the same legislation.
  - C. get most of the work done in Congress and are created based on expertise.
  - D. investigate scandals or deal with crisis situations.
  
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for gaining public attention for certain issues, generating information for Congress, and helping party leaders speed up the legislation process on certain bills.
  - A. joint committee
  - B. select committee
  - C. conference committee
  - D. standing committee
  
9. \_\_\_\_\_ are responsible for helping to write legislation.
  - A. Committee members
  - B. Congressional staff members
  - C. Constituents
  - D. Pollsters
  
10. Unwritten expectations of how committee members behave are called:
  - A. committee rules.
  - B. standing rules.
  - C. norms of behavior.
  - D. rules of behavior.