

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

Guided Reading

Section 4.4: "I'm Just a Bill"

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: Explain the lawmaking process.

AP® Key Concepts

discharge petition

filibuster

House Rules Committee

cloture

Committee of the Whole

veto

hold

 **While you read**

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

House of Representatives processes	Senate processes	Politics and lawmaking

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 **After you read**

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

1. In order to protect the new government, the founding fathers placed:
 - A. many representatives in Congress.
 - B. many hurdles in the legislative process.
 - C. many committees in the legislative process.
 - D. many sections into bills.

2. The legislative process starts with the:
 - A. debates over bills on the floor of Congress.
 - B. creation of a bill in committee.
 - C. drafting of the bill in the Senate.
 - D. introduction of the bill in either the House or the Senate.

3. A president can often encourage legislation by:
 - A. appealing to the public.
 - B. working with congressional staff.
 - C. appealing to committees.
 - D. presenting an executive order.

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4. Assigning a bill to a committee is important and can often involve:
 - A. intervention from the president.
 - B. protests from constituents.
 - C. strategic political calculations.
 - D. bipartisan contribution.

5. During the legislative process, collecting information about a bill is a job for:
 - A. congressional staff.
 - B. enclaves.
 - C. subcommittees.
 - D. pollsters.

6. After hearing from experts on a bill, committee members are given an opportunity to:
 - A. decide if they are going to vote.
 - B. mark up a bill with their suggestions.
 - C. debate on a bill.
 - D. cross-examine experts.

7. While discharge petitions are rarely successful, they can:
 - A. cause committees to pick new leaders.
 - B. stop committees from tabling bills.
 - C. force a committee to act on a bill.
 - D. make Congress vote on the bill.

8. The House Rules Committee has the power to:
 - A. make the Senate vote on a bill.
 - B. stop a bill before it gets to committee.
 - C. determine how long a debate will last on a bill.
 - D. force all representatives to vote on a bill.

9. Placing a _____ on a piece of legislation is one way individual senators are able to stop or slow a bill.

10. Filibusters are used to delay a bill because a senator refuses to:
 - A. vote.
 - B. participate in debate.
 - C. stop talking.
 - D. review the committee report.

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11. A _____ is an action that can stop a filibuster and requires a three-fifths vote.
- A. unanimous consent agreement
 - B. discharge petition
 - C. cloture
 - D. termination
12. Reconciliation is when a bill goes to committee so that adjustments can be made to spending to make sure that it meets the:
- A. expectations of the voters.
 - B. standards of the president.
 - C. standard of living costs.
 - D. final budget resolution.
13. If a president decides to use the _____ power against a bill, it goes back to Congress.
- A. oversight
 - B. inaction
 - C. rejection
 - D. veto