

Vocabulary Activity

The Legislative Branch

Content Vocabulary

1. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to explain how votes are counted in Congress. Note which house of Congress uses each type of vote.

Voice vote	Standing vote	Roll-call vote

2. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to describe the differences among the three types of Congressional power. Use the terms *expressed power*, *implied power*, and *nonlegislative power* in your answer. Include one example of each type of power.

Type of Power	Description
Expressed power	
Implied power	
Nonlegislative power	

3. **Directions:** Read the following paragraph. Explain what the terms *writ of habeas corpus* and *ex post facto law* mean, based on the information in the passage. Write your explanations in the chart.

A man was arrested and taken to jail without being told what he was being charged with. His attorney obtained a writ of habeas corpus. The judge told the man that he had been arrested under an ex post facto law. The charges against the man were dropped, and he was released.

Term	Explanation
writ of habeas corpus	
ex post facto law	

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

The Legislative Branch

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the statement is true, write *T* in the first blank. If the sentence is false, write *F*, and then explain in the space provided why the statement is false. Include the vocabulary words in parentheses in your explanation.

- _____ 4. The legislative branch of the federal government consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives. (**Senate, House of Representatives**)
- _____ 5. A bill of attainder requires a speedy trial for anyone accused of a crime. (**bill of attainder**)
- _____ 6. The franking privilege allows members of Congress to oversee the actions of another branch or agency. (**franking privilege**)
- _____ 7. A pork-barrel project is a government project grant that primarily benefits a congressperson's home district or state. (**pork-barrel project**)
- _____ 8. A joint resolution is one submitted to the president by a special-interest group. (**joint resolution, special-interest group**)
- _____ 9. When the Senate's 100 members are divided evenly between two political parties, the party of the vice president is the minority party, not the majority party. (**minority party, majority party**)
- _____ 10. A pocket veto is used by Congress to check the power of the president. (**pocket veto**)
- _____ 11. The elastic clause allows Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution. (**elastic clause**)

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

The Legislative Branch

DIRECTIONS: In the space provided before each word in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition.

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|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 12. census | a. the power to supervise the actions of another branch or agency of the government |
| _____ 13. constituent | b. an oddly shaped election district designed to increase the voting strength of a particular group |
| _____ 14. gerrymander | c. to formally accuse a government official of misconduct in office |
| _____ 15. impeach | d. the work that a lawmaker does to help constituents solve a problem with a federal agency |
| _____ 16. oversight | e. a completely unrelated amendment added to a bill in the Senate |
| _____ 17. lobbyist | f. a person represented by a government official |
| _____ 18. casework | g. a tactic for defeating a bill in the Senate by talking or using other procedures until the bill's sponsor withdraws it |
| _____ 19. immunity | h. a population count taken by the government |
| _____ 20. rider | i. a procedure used in the Senate to limit debate on a bill and end or prevent a filibuster |
| _____ 21. filibuster | j. legal protection |
| _____ 22. cloture | k. representative of an interest group who contacts government officials to influence policy |

Academic Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: From the vocabulary list, choose the best word to answer each question.

adjust, regulate, acquit, submit, draft

23. Which word means “to manage or control something”?
24. Which word means “to write a rough version of something”?
25. Which word means “to offer a bill for consideration”?
26. Which word means “to find a defendant not guilty”?
27. Which word means “to change something”?