

What Congress Does and Why it Matters

Worksheet 1: Studying the Diagram

1. What is the topic of this diagram, and how is it organized to express it?

2. Give examples of how Congress does each of the four major actions shown on the diagram.
 - a. Legislates:

 - b. Exercises powers granted in the Constitution:

 - c. Represents constituents:

 - d. Balances powers within Congress itself and between branches:

3. In which of the four major actions does Congress interact with other parts of the government?

4. Which of the four major actions does the public know the least about? Why?

5. Which of the four major actions should the public to understand better? Why?

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Worksheet 2: Analyzing One Quadrant of the Diagram

1. How do members of Congress act as representatives of particular groups of constituents when they do the actions detailed in this quadrant of the diagram?
2. How does the Senate or House act for the American people in general when either does the action detailed in this quadrant of the diagram?
3. How does the House or Senate demonstrate the principle of the separation of powers when it conducts the actions detailed in this quadrant of the diagram?
4. How do the actions detailed in this quadrant demonstrate balance between branches of government?