Name	Class	Date
CHAPTER LOOK	COMMON QUESTION	
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Benefits and Drawbacks of a Bicameral Legislature

Suppose that your school is forming a Student Activities Council that will act as a governing body for all school-related activities except academic classes. The council would make decisions about rules for participation, division and use of facilities for practice or meetings, and allocation of money to each activity. There are three options for the structure:

- A. a unicameral (single-house) council with representation based on the number of participants. This plan would include one representative per ten students who are members of a club or sports team, or who participate in the activity. Therefore, a club with 30 students would elect three representatives, while a club with 12 students would elect one. Every club would elect at least one representative.
- B. a unicameral council with two representatives from each activity, regardless of the number of participants.
- C. a bicameral council with two houses. The upper house would reflect option B, with two representatives from each activity. The lower house would reflect option A, with representation based on numbers of participants.

Consider the following questions:

- Whose interests should the elected students represent: those of their group or the whole school?
- If one group is much larger than the others, do they have too much power in the lower house or too little in the upper house, or is the balance fair?
- Which house better represents the voice of the student body?
- How does this structure affect the government's ability to get things done? Is it better when more people must agree?

Representation Based on Membership	Representation (Option B)	Drawbacks of Representation Based on Membership (Option A)	Representation (Option B)
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