

**UDL Lesson – The Legislative Branch**

**Chapter 10**

**Chapter Essential Question**: Whose views should members of Congress represent when voting?

**Objectives:**

1. Explain why the Constitution provides for a bicameral Congress.
2. Explain the difference between a term and a session of Congress.
3. Describe a situation in which the President may convene or end a session of Congress.
4. Explain how house seats are distributed and describe the length of a term in the House.
5. Explain how House seats are reapportioned among the States after each census.
6. Describe a typical congressional election and congressional district.
7. Analyze the formal and informal qualifications for election in the House.
8. Compare the size of the Senate to the size of the House of Representatives.
9. Describe how senators are elected.
10. Explain how and why a senator’s term differs from a representative’s term.
11. Describe the qualifications for election to the Senate.
12. Describe the personal and political backgrounds of present-day members of Congress
13. Identify the major roles played by those who serve in Congress.
14. Describe the compensation and privileges of members of Congress.

**Political Dictionary:**

bicameral term session

convene adjourn recess

prologue special session apportion

reapportion off-year election single-member district

at-large gerrymander incumbent

continuous body constituency delegate

trustee partisan politico

bill floor consideration oversight function

franking privilege

**Checkpoint Questions:**

1. What practical problem did the Framers solve by creating a bicameral legislature?
2. How many sessions make up each congressional term?
3. What problem did the House face after the census of 1920?
4. Which party typically gains seats in off-year elections?
5. What is gerrymandering and what are its purpose and result?
6. What did the Supreme Court rule in the 1964 case of *Westberry v. Sanders?*
7. What are the formal qualifications for members of the House?
8. What informal qualifications affect a candidate’s electability?
9. How were senators chosen before and after the passage of the 17th Amendment?

*10.*Describe the gender, ethnic and religious diversity of the members of Congress.

11. What is the leading factor in how legislators vote?

12. Name five fringe benefits for members of Congress.

13. Why does the Constitution grant members of Congress immunity from prosecution for anything they say in committee or on the floor?