

Student Handout 2A: Legislative Branch

Established by Article I of the Constitution, the Legislative Branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form the United States Congress. The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, the right to confirm or reject many Presidential appointments, and substantial investigative powers.

Directions: Use the chart below to summarize important parts of Article I.

Article I	Constitutional Text	Summary
Section 1	All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.	A.
Section 2		
Clause 1	The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States,	A.
Clause 2	No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen. (Hint – there is a double negative in the sentence above).	B.
Clause 5	The House of Representatives shall chuse (choose) their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.	B.
Section 3		
Clause 1	The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, . . . for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.	C. The 17 th Amendment provided for the direct election of senators by the people of each state.
Clause 3	No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.	C.

Clause 4	The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.	D.
Clause 6	The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.	D.
Section 7		
Clause 1	All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.	E.
Clause 2	Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law.	E.
Section 8		
Chunk 1	The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;	A.
Section		
	To borrow Money on the credit of	B.

<p>8</p> <p>Chunk 2</p>	<p>the United States;</p> <p>To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;</p> <p>To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization. . . ;</p> <p>To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, . . . , and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;</p> <p>To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;</p>	
<p>Section 8</p> <p>Chunk 3</p>	<p>To establish Post Offices</p> <p>To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;</p> <p>To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;</p>	<p>C.</p>
<p>Section 8</p> <p>Chunk 4</p>	<p>To declare War, . . . , and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;</p> <p>To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;</p> <p>To provide and maintain a Navy;</p> <p>To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;</p> <p>To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;</p>	<p>D.</p>
<p>Section 8</p> <p>Chunk 5</p>	<p>To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States....</p>	<p>E.</p>