

*American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course*

Guided Reading

Section 4.6: Challenges of Representation

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

 **Before you read**

**Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.**

**Learning Target:** Explain how constituency, partisanship, and divided government influence Congress.

**AP® Key Concepts**

delegate role

trustee role

politico role

bipartisanship

gridlock

divided government

lame duck period

 **While you read**

**Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.**

Characteristics of government	Impact on Congress

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 **After you read**

**Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.**

1. The most visible part of the legislative process is voting; however, much goes on in the background including:
  - A. presidential actions.
  - B. debates.
  - C. Supreme Court investigations.
  - D. bill sponsorship.
  
2. Voters can affect how a representative will vote on a bill, but so can the:
  - A. vice president.
  - B. representative's political party.
  - C. Supreme Court.
  - D. interest groups.
  
3. As a primary role for a member of Congress, the delegate role is to:
  - A. represent U.S. interests overseas.
  - B. vote on legislation.
  - C. carry out the needs of the constituents.
  - D. determine the constitutionality of a bill.
  
4. The role of trustee means that the member of Congress must make:
  - A. legislation for their state only.
  - B. decisions based on knowledge and judgment.
  - C. laws that are always constitutional.
  - D. constituents happy the majority of the time.

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5. The politico role requires Members of Congress to:
  - A. reconsider legislation that is not constitutional.
  - B. focus on the desires of constituents.
  - C. reconcile the needs of constituents and the needs of the party.
  - D. make good decisions based on knowledge.
  
6. Constituents who are interested in policy can often struggle to:
  - A. talk with constituents who are not interested.
  - B. decide which candidate to vote for.
  - C. keep up with all policy issues.
  - D. understand why other constituents are not interested.
  
7. Gridlock happens in Congress when legislation is:
  - A. passed.
  - B. vetoed or stopped.
  - C. stopped by the Supreme Court.
  - D. slowed or stalled.
  
8. A divided government happens when:
  - A. Congress cannot agree on whether to pass a bill or not.
  - B. a president forces Congress to pass a bill it does not want to.
  - C. a president and one or both chambers of Congress are split between parties.
  - D. a Supreme Court ruling strikes down a new bill.
  
9. Many members of Congress tend to be:
  - A. less understanding of people.
  - B. more involved in DC life.
  - C. older than most of the electorate.
  - D. less concerned with their own voters.
  
10. Substantive representation is when a member of Congress:
  - A. focuses on the interests and policies important to their constituents.
  - B. focuses on what their party needs and tries to make it work for their constituents.
  - C. focuses on the interests and policies important to the nation.
  - D. focuses on what the president needs.