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# **Guided Reading Activity**



## The Structure of Congress

### **Lesson 4** Congressional Committees

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Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I.	Pur	pose	of	Com	mittee	25
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- A. The \_\_\_\_\_\_ system allows members of Congress to divide their work among smaller groups, where lawmakers can become specialists on the \_\_\_\_\_\_ that their committees consider. B. Committees take the huge number of \_\_\_\_\_\_ introduced, choose the ones they will work on, resolve disagreements, and decide which will have a chance to become law.
- C. Public \_\_\_\_\_\_ and investigations by committees help inform the public about key problems and issues facing the nation.

### II. Kinds of Committees

both houses with a compromise bill.

A. Both the House and the Senate have \_\_\_\_\_\_ which continue from one legislative session to the next and are controlled by the majority party. B. \_\_\_\_\_\_specialize in one aspect of the standing committee's responsibilities, and continue from one legislative session to the next. C. Temporary, or \_\_\_\_\_\_, study one specific issue and report their findings to the Senate or the House. D. \_\_\_\_\_ are composed of members from both the House and the Senate and, although they study a topic or bill and report back to the House or the Senate about it, they have no \_\_\_\_\_\_ to work on bills or to propose laws. E. When the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill, a \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is created to resolve differences between the two versions and present

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# **Guided Reading Activity** cont.

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# The Structure of Congress

III. Ch	osing Committee Members	
A.	The to which a member of Congress is assigned can enhance the	
	egislator's political career by dealing with issues important to constituents and by providing	
	, either in national policies or on fellow Congress members.	
В.	Chairpersons of are among the most	
	powerful people in Congress because they make decisions about the work of their committees.	
C.	n spite of criticism of the, most memb	ers
	still cast their ballots for the longest-serving members to chair committees.	
Sumn	ary and Reflection	
Direct	ons: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.	
	re the four types of congressional committees, and what functions do they serve in the structuanization of Congress?	ire