

Guided Reading Activity

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Congress at Work

Lesson 3 *Influencing Congress*

Review Questions

Directions: Locate each heading below in your text. Then use the information under the correct heading and subheading to help you write each answer.

I. Influences on Lawmakers

A. What factors influence how a lawmaker votes?

II. The Influence of Voters

A. For what reasons might a lawmaker vote against the wishes of constituents?

B. Why is a lawmaker's voting record important?

C. What three basic methods do lawmakers use to keep track of their constituents' opinions?

D. Why do lawmakers pay close attention to the ideas of their rain-or-shine supporters?

III. The Influence of Parties

A. Why do party members often vote together?

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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IV. Other Influences on Congress

A. How does the president influence Congress?

B. What are lobbyists and what is their job?

C. Why has Congress created a “cooling off” period regarding lobbying?

D. What are PACs, and what part do they play in influencing Congress?

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

Why might a Congress member vote against his or her personal beliefs?
