Unit Plan for Legislative Branch Fall 2017

Tuesday, 9/12- Students were assigned Intro to Congress I after test, questions 1-5b. Students will be required to do either Intro pt I or Intro pt. II

Wednesday, 9/13 Intro to Congress

Objective: Students will be able to explain many of the organizational aspects of the U.S. Congress.

1. “Sandwich Activity” to demonstrate the role of representatives, and the challenges associated with that role.

2. Check Intro to Congress pt.1 questions 1-5b.

3. Students work together to complete questions 6-7 on Intro to Congress pt 1 H.O. Review

Homework: Intro to Congress pt. II, questions 1-7. Required for those who did not do Intro pt. I, optional for those who did.

Thursday, 9/14 Intro to Congress/ Redistricting

Objective: Students will be able to explain many of the organizational aspects of the U.S. Congress.

1. Intro Notes

2. Check and review Intro to Congress pt. II handout.

1. Review q’s 3-7 first.

2. Show slide question about voters picking reps or reps picking voters.

3. Review questions 1-3.

4. Look at America’s most Gerrymandered Districts. Excellent video explaining Gerrymandering.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/05/15/americas-most-gerrymandered-congressional-districts/?Post+generic=%3Ftid%3Dsm_twitter_washingtonpost>

5. Do redistricting activity at bottom of back page.

6. Use power point to discuss controversy of Gerrymandering and movement to change the practice.

No homework, but students can complete through #11 on study guide.

Friday, 9/15 Redistricting/ Find My Representative

Objective: Students will be able to explain the concepts associated the redistricting of House seats, like Gerrymandering, and the laws restricting the practice. Students will use the house.gov website to find their Representative, and see how gerrymandering has split up Travis County.

1. Review Constitution Tests

2. Review redistricting concepts from yesterday.

3. Use "Find My Representative" Website to find your rep on house.gov Examine how republicans used the “crack and pack” technique when redistricting Travis County.

4. Use power point to discuss controversy of Gerrymandering and movement to change the practice.

No homework, but students can complete through #11 on study guide.

Monday, 9/18 Research for E Congress Mock Legislature

Objective: Students will begin laying the groundwork for their participation in our E Congress mock legislature.

1. Work on the first two pages of the Mock Legislature Research Guide

No homework, but students can complete through #11 on study guide.

Tuesday, 9/19 continue Mock Legislature research packet

Objective: Students will continue laying the groundwork for their participation in our E Congress mock legislature.

1. Continue work on research packet. Students should complete the packet in class today.

Homework: Students must have all 4 pages of the research packet completed for the start of class tomorrow.

Wednesday, 9/20 Writing Bills

Objective: Students will create the bills they will introduce into our mock legislature.

1. Check packets for completion.

2. Review eCongress website on tips for writing bills.

3. Write Bills

Homework: Bills must be completed for tomorrow.

Thursday, 9/21 Congressional Leadership; Congress at Work

Objective: Students will be able to identify the significance of certain positions within the Congress. Students will also examine inner workings of Congress.

1. Turn in Bills

2. Work in groups on Leadership in Congress H.O. Reading in online text book, topic 4.5. Review when finished.

3. Begin work on Congress at Work H.O. Reading in online textbook, topic 4.6.

Homework: Students should study the pdf. Steps for a Bill to Become a Law chart on my website for special “quiz” tomorrow.

Friday, 9/22 Review Bills; Congress at Work

Objective: Students will review the bills they created and make improvements as directed. Students will also examine the inner workings of Congress.

1. Return bills and discuss issues and changes that need to be made. Students must make improvements on their own to be able to type official bills next week.

2. Work in groups on Congress at Work H.O.

Homework: Study Steps for a Bill to Become a Law chart on my website for special “quiz” Monday.

Monday, 9/25 Congress at Work; Law Making Process

Objective: Students be able to explain the significance of committees in Congress, as well as identify the various steps a bill must go through to become a law.

1. Review Congress at Work H.O. Watch brief video on ear marks. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3boBYbT_vGw>

2. Bill sequencing game.

3. I’m Just a Bill

Homework: Use bill template in google classroom to type official bill for the mock legislature. This will be a major grade. Students must bring paper copy of bill to class on Wednesday.

Tuesday, 9/26 Party Affiliation; Committees Organization

Early release schedule.

Objective: Students organize themselves into political parties and choose party leadership for our mock legislature. Students will organize the committees needed to study the bills for the Mock Legislature.

1. Create committees based on bills for mock legislature.

2. Students will choose their party affiliation for the Mock Legislature and choose party floor leaders and whips.

3. Floor leaders will make committee assignments.

No homework, but students must bring the final versions of their bills to class tomorrow.

Wednesday, 9/27 Roles of a Congressman / A Day in the Life of Congress

Objective: Students will be able to explain the various roles congressmen play, and watch the typical day of a congressman.

1. Work in pairs on Roles of a Congressman H.O., then review.

2. Watch video “A Day in the Life of a Congressman” and complete the video guide for a required grade.

Homework: Students must have the final version of their bills typed and printed on paper tomorrow.

Thursday, 9/28 Cosponsors/Committee Hearings

Objective: Students will work to obtain cosponsors for their bills. Students will review bills in committees and decide to pass or kill the legislation.

1. Turn in bills.

2. Try to obtain cosponsors for bills.

3. In committees, review each bill and decide if the measure passes, is rejected, or amended and passed. Senators will debate and hear testimony.

4. Students will keep track of votes on their Caucus and Committee Notes worksheet.

No homework, but students can complete the study guide. Study guides are due Tuesday. Test is Wednesday.

Friday, 9/29 Mock Legislature Senate Floor debate and voting.

Objective: Students will participate in the final step of the Mock Legislature by conducting floor debate and votes on each bill that was passed by the committees.

1. Bills are introduced, debated, possibly filibustered, and voted upon.

2. Students will keep track of votes on their Caucus and Committee Notes worksheet.

No homework, but students can complete the study guide. Study guides are due Tuesday. Test is Wednesday.

Monday, 10/2 What is Popular vs. What is Right

Students will be able to explain the dilemma Representatives face when their constituents want something that might not be in the best interest of the nation.

1. Read We the people #29 on Congressman Jones. Work in groups on the problem solving activity.

2. Continue mock legislature as time allows.

Homework: Study Guide is due tomorrow.

Tuesday, 10/3 Formative Quiz; Test Review

Objective: Students will take a formative quiz on their ipads, and then review for tomorrow’s test.

1. Grade study guides and return.

2. Formative quiz on iPad (not for grade).

3. Practical Politics examples

4. Review for tomorrow’s test.

Homework: Legislative Branch Test tomorrow. Study must be turned in. Review session at 8:25 am.

Wednesday, 10/4 Legislative Branch Test

Study Guide due. Review session at 8:25.