

# CHAPTER 10 Congress

## Warmup



### Whose views should members of Congress represent when voting?

How should members of Congress balance the needs and wishes of both the people they represent and other people in government? Rank the following interests on the scales from not important to very important.

**A. Voters in his or her district (for House members)**

A horizontal scale consisting of a blue arrow pointing left labeled "Not Important" and a blue arrow pointing right labeled "Very Important". Between the two arrows are 10 empty rectangular boxes for ranking.

Explain your ranking.

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**B. All residents of the State from which he or she was elected (Senate members)**

A horizontal scale consisting of a blue arrow pointing left labeled "Not Important" and a blue arrow pointing right labeled "Very Important". Between the two arrows are 10 empty rectangular boxes for ranking.

Explain your ranking. \_\_\_\_\_

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**C. The nation as a whole**

A horizontal scale consisting of a blue arrow pointing left labeled "Not Important" and a blue arrow pointing right labeled "Very Important". Between the two arrows are 10 empty rectangular boxes for ranking.

Explain your ranking. \_\_\_\_\_

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**D. His or her political party**

A horizontal scale consisting of a blue arrow pointing left labeled "Not Important" and a blue arrow pointing right labeled "Very Important". Between the two arrows are 10 empty rectangular boxes for ranking.

Explain your ranking. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Exploration

## I. Representation and Bicameralism

### Find Out

**A.** Use your print or online textbook to find the reasons why the Framers of the U.S. Constitution specified a bicameral legislature. Use that information to complete the statements below.

- The House has 435 members; the Senate has \_\_\_\_\_ members. Why is there a difference in the number of members in each house?

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- Senators have six-year terms. Representatives have \_\_\_\_\_-year terms. What effect do you think the difference in the length of terms has on the way senators and representatives vote?

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- Representatives represent a district within a State. Senators represent \_\_\_\_\_. What influence do you think this difference has on the interests of senators and representatives?

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### What Do You Think?

**B.** Representatives have always been chosen by the people, but until 1913, senators were chosen by State legislatures. In 1913, the 17th Amendment changed the method by which senators were elected to election by the people. Do you think the Framers would have approved of this change? Do you think senators vote differently than they did due to this change? Explain.

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## II. Approaches to Representation

### Find Out

**A.** Use your print or online textbook to review different approaches that congressional representatives can take in making decisions. Then complete the following activities. Draw a line from each term on the left to its correct description on the right.

**delegate** votes according to the wishes of his or her party's leaders

**partisan** juggles the concerns of constituents, the wishes of the party leadership, his or her own views, and the political pressures of the moment

**politico** decides how to vote based on his or her own judgment on the issue

**trustee** casts each vote to represent the views of constituents

### What Do You Think?

**B.** Rank the four basic approaches to representation from the one you would most like your own representatives in Congress to use to the one you would least like them to use.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** Explain the reasons for your ranking, including how you would like your own representative to vote.

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### III. Reapportionment

#### ➔ Find out

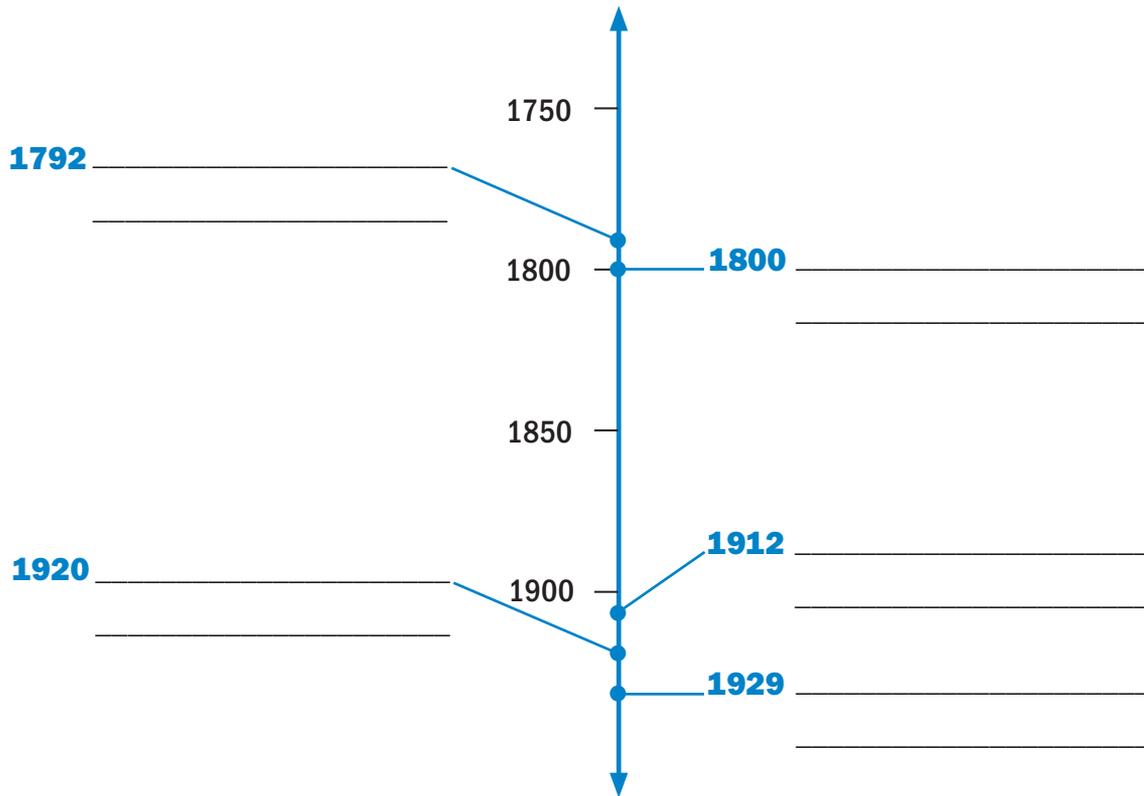
A. What does *reapportionment* mean? When and why does it occur?

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B. Use your print or online textbook to complete a time line of major changes in the House of Representatives due to reapportionment.



#### 👤 What Do You Think?

C. What was the reasoning behind passage of the Reapportionment Act of 1929? Do you think that this law makes the representation in the House more or less fair than it had been previously? Explain.

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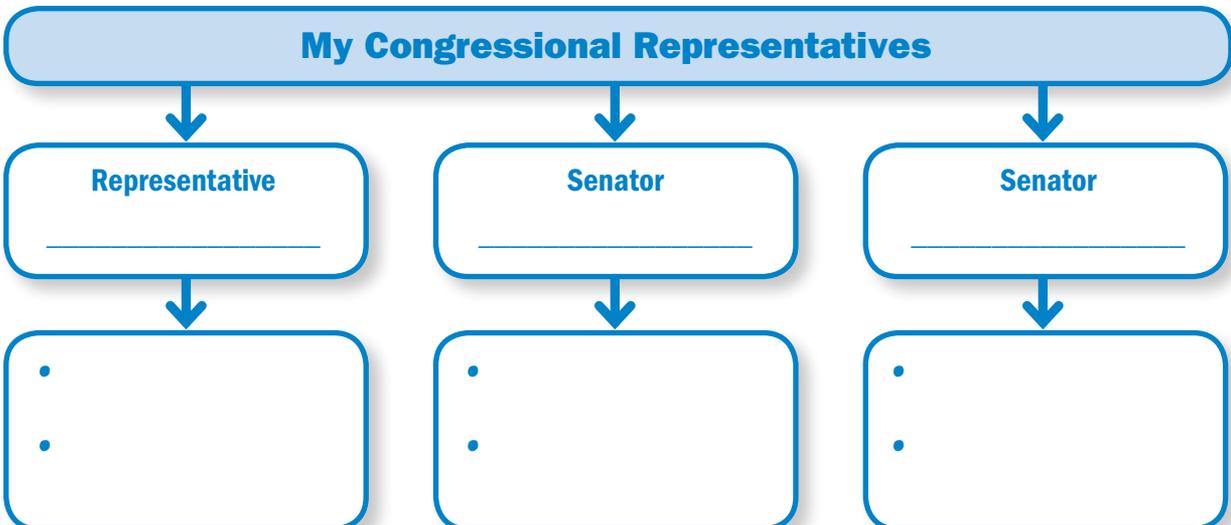
# Apply What You've Learned Activity

What impact do earmarks have on the relationship between members of Congress and their constituents? What impact do they have on the nation as a whole? Use this worksheet to organize answers to the Apply What You've Learned questions in your print or online textbook.

**A.** Complete the table below with arguments for and against earmarks. Draw a circle around the arguments in the table that you find most persuasive. (Note: You may find that you agree with some points made by each side.)

Congressional Earmarks	
Arguments For	Arguments Against

**B.** Use the flowchart below to organize the information you find about earmarks sponsored by your congressional representatives.



# Essay



## Whose views should members of Congress represent when voting?

The Framers designed a representative democracy when they wrote the Constitution, but the question of how Americans can best be represented has been debated ever since. Keeping in mind the different views of representation you have studied in this chapter, analyze the poll data presented below.

Questions	Responses						
<p><b>Influence of Public Between Elections</b> Do you think that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence.</li> <li>• Leaders should pay attention to the views of the people as they make decisions.</li> </ul>	<p>5% 94%</p>						
<p><b>Paying Attention to Polls</b> When government leaders are thinking about an important decision, do you think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They should pay attention to public opinion polls because this will help them get a sense of the public's views.</li> <li>• They should not pay attention to public opinion polls because this will distract them from deciding what they think is right.</li> </ul>	<p>81% 18%</p>						
<p><b>Will of the People</b> (<i>Means Displayed</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much is this country governed according to the will of the people?</li> <li>• Using the same scale, how much do you think this country should be governed according to the will of the people?</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Not at all</th> <th>Completely</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0 4</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0 7.9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Not at all	Completely	0 4	10	0 7.9	10
Not at all	Completely						
0 4	10						
0 7.9	10						

Source: WorldPublicOpinion.org



### What Do You Think?

What is your own opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, **Whose views should members of Congress represent when voting?** Consider your thoughts on the poll data presented above, the Guiding Questions in your textbook, and the activities you have completed in your Journal. See page 219 for a rubric on writing an Essential Question essay.



### Don't Forget

Your answer to this question will help you think about the Unit 3 Essential Question: **What makes a successful Congress?**