# The Legislative Branch: Representation, Deliberation, and Law

First & Last Name: _____ Date: _____

**CENTRAL QUESTION**

What makes lawmaking both representative and accountable?

### Learning objective

Analyze four source sets, evaluate evidence and limitations, and defend a civic judgment through interdisciplinary inquiry.

### Demonstration of learning

Complete the daily evidence tasks, earn a score on 15 multiple choice items, and write a source based RACE response using the 19 point rubric.

### Standards and task alignment

NJSLS Social Studies: 6.1.8.CivicsPI.3.b; 6.3.8.CivicsPR.5; 6.3.8.CivicsPR.7. Applied in daily analysis and the final civic judgment. NJSLS ELA (2023): RI.CR.6.1 (evidence), RI.CI.6.2 (central ideas), W.AW.6.1 (argument), SL.PE.6.1 (discussion). National CCSS: RH.6-8.1, RH.6-8.2, RH.6-8.7; WHST.6-8.1 and WHST.6-8.9. NJSLS / CCSS Math: 6.RP.A.3 (ratios and percent); Science, technology, arts, history, and civic participation are integrated through the named tasks; no additional science or arts code is claimed.

### Five lesson sequence

Days 1 to 4: read, annotate, analyze, collaborate, and write. Day 5: 15 question assessment and extended RACE response. Each lesson is designed for 40 minutes; teacher notes provide timing and supports.

### Academic vocabulary

bicameral: having two chambers; bill: proposed law; committee: smaller group assigned to study matters; constituent: person represented by an official; veto: presidential rejection of a bill; override: congressional action overcoming a veto

### Source integrity

Readings are original Ma’at instructional syntheses. Exact historical excerpts are marked. Classroom datasets and scenarios are labeled; they are not historical records or actual government budgets. Source references appear on page 13.

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DAY 1

## Source A | Two chambers and different representation

**Do Now**

Why might states disagree about representation based only on population?

[1] Article I establishes Congress, consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. House seats are apportioned among states by population under constitutional rules and federal law. Each state has two senators. Representatives serve two year terms and senators six year terms. The Seventeenth Amendment provides for popular election of senators.

[2] These arrangements balance different principles. The House connects representation to population, while the Senate gives states equal representation regardless of size. Equal numbers of senators do not mean equal population per senator. Both chambers participate in federal lawmaking, but some constitutional responsibilities differ. The House initiates impeachment; the Senate tries impeachments.

[3] Hiram Revels of Mississippi took office in 1870 as the first African American senator. His service illustrates African American participation during Reconstruction and the struggles surrounding political inclusion. A biography can make institutional history visible, but one person’s achievement does not establish that every barrier disappeared. Representation involves both the structure of an institution and whose experiences can enter its deliberations. Primary excerpt, Article I, Section 3: 'The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State'. Later amendments changed election procedures, not equal state representation in the Senate.

Annotation task: underline a central claim; box one civic term; mark one detail as evidence; add a question where evidence or authority needs clarification.

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