

the 117th congress worksheet

the 117th congress worksheet serves as an essential tool for students, educators, and political enthusiasts aiming to understand the composition, functions, and legislative activities of the 117th United States Congress. This worksheet provides a structured format to explore key elements such as the membership, leadership, committee assignments, major legislation, and significant events that defined this particular session of Congress. By engaging with the 117th congress worksheet, users can enhance their knowledge of the legislative branch, analyze political dynamics, and track the progress of important bills and policies. Additionally, it facilitates critical thinking and offers a comprehensive overview that reflects the complexities of the U.S. legislative process during 2021-2023. This article delves into the components of the 117th congress worksheet, its educational benefits, and how it can be utilized effectively for academic and civic purposes. Below is a detailed table of contents outlining the main topics covered.

- Overview of the 117th Congress
- Structure and Membership
- Key Leadership Positions
- Major Committees and Their Roles
- Significant Legislation Passed
- Using the 117th Congress Worksheet in Education
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Overview of the 117th Congress

The 117th United States Congress convened from January 3, 2021, to January 3, 2023, during the first two years of President Joe Biden's administration. This session was notable for its legislative response to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery efforts, and significant policy debates on infrastructure, voting rights, and climate change. The 117th Congress was characterized by a narrow Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and an evenly split Senate, requiring bipartisan cooperation on critical issues. Understanding this Congress's context provides essential background for completing the 117th congress worksheet accurately and comprehensively.

Structure and Membership

The 117th Congress consisted of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate included 100 members, two from each state, serving staggered six-year terms. The House comprised 435 voting members, apportioned based on state population. This session featured slight changes in membership due to special elections, resignations, and appointments. The 117th congress worksheet typically includes sections to record the names, party affiliations, and states or districts of these members, facilitating a clear understanding of congressional composition.

Party Distribution

During the 117th Congress, the Democratic Party held a slim majority in the House of Representatives, while the Senate was divided 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans, with Vice President Kamala Harris providing the tie-breaking vote. This delicate balance influenced legislative negotiations and decision-making processes throughout the session.

Membership Changes

The 117th Congress experienced several notable membership changes due to resignations, deaths,

and special elections. The worksheet often provides space to track these changes, highlighting the dynamic nature of congressional representation and its impact on legislative priorities.

Key Leadership Positions

Leadership roles in the 117th Congress were critical in shaping the legislative agenda and managing party strategies. The worksheet includes sections dedicated to identifying and understanding the responsibilities of these leaders in both chambers.

House Leadership

The Speaker of the House, the Majority and Minority Leaders, and Whips played pivotal roles in organizing legislative business and party discipline. Nancy Pelosi served as Speaker, guiding the Democratic majority through complex negotiations and policy implementations.

Senate Leadership

In the Senate, the Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell were central figures in managing floor debates and legislative priorities. The Vice President's role as President of the Senate was also significant in tie-breaking votes.

Major Committees and Their Roles

The 117th congress worksheet emphasizes the importance of committees, which are the backbone of congressional work. Committees conduct hearings, review legislation, and oversee government agencies.

Standing Committees

Standing committees such as the House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee, and others held jurisdiction over key policy areas. Their work was instrumental in shaping the legislation passed during this session.

Special and Select Committees

Special committees, including the House Select Committee on the January 6th Attack, played a unique role in investigating specific issues. The worksheet typically encourages tracking their findings and impact on congressional operations.

Significant Legislation Passed

The 117th Congress enacted several landmark laws addressing pressing national challenges. The worksheet often includes sections to summarize and analyze these legislative achievements.

1. **American Rescue Plan Act (2021):** A \$1.9 trillion stimulus package aimed at economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021):** Bipartisan legislation funding transportation, broadband, and utilities improvements.
3. **COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act:** Legislation addressing hate crimes related to the pandemic.
4. **Juneteenth National Independence Day Act:** Establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Using the 117th Congress Worksheet in Education

Educators utilize the 117th congress worksheet as an interactive learning tool to engage students with real-world government processes. It helps develop research skills, critical analysis, and a deeper appreciation for democratic institutions.

Classroom Applications

The worksheet can be assigned as a project, homework, or discussion guide. It encourages students to explore congressional biographies, voting records, and committee activities, fostering active learning about legislative functions.

Assessment and Evaluation

Teachers use the worksheet to assess students' understanding of political structures, historical context, and current events related to the 117th Congress. It provides a framework for evaluating comprehension and analytical abilities.

Benefits of the Worksheet for Civic Engagement

Beyond education, the 117th congress worksheet supports civic engagement by informing citizens about their representatives and legislative developments. It promotes transparency and accountability in government.

- Enhances voter awareness by detailing member profiles and voting behavior.
- Encourages participation in democracy through informed discussions and advocacy.

- Facilitates tracking of policy changes impacting communities.
- Strengthens understanding of the legislative process and government operations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 117th Congress worksheet used for?

The 117th Congress worksheet is typically used as an educational tool to help students and individuals learn about the members, committees, functions, and significant legislation of the 117th United States Congress.

Where can I find a 117th Congress worksheet?

You can find 117th Congress worksheets on educational websites, civics resources, government archives, or create your own using information from official government websites such as [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov).

What topics are covered in a 117th Congress worksheet?

A 117th Congress worksheet often covers topics such as the structure of Congress, key members (Senators and Representatives), major committees, legislative processes, and important bills passed during the 117th Congress.

How can the 117th Congress worksheet help in understanding U.S. government?

The worksheet provides a structured way to learn about the legislative branch, helping users understand how laws are made, who represents different states, and the roles of various members and committees in Congress.

Who were the leaders of the 117th Congress featured on the worksheet?

The 117th Congress featured leaders such as Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House and Chuck Schumer as Senate Majority Leader, along with other key leadership positions in both chambers.

Can the 117th Congress worksheet be used for current political analysis?

While the worksheet provides historical context and information specific to the 117th Congress (2021-2023), it can be used as a reference point for understanding recent legislative trends and political dynamics.

What significant legislation from the 117th Congress is included in the worksheet?

Worksheets may include notable laws passed during the 117th Congress, such as the American Rescue Plan Act, infrastructure bills, and other key policy initiatives enacted between 2021 and 2023.

How detailed are the member listings in the 117th Congress worksheet?

The detail level varies, but many worksheets provide names, party affiliations, states represented, and committee assignments of members of the House and Senate during the 117th Congress.

Additional Resources

1. *The 117th Congress: An Insider's Guide to Legislative Processes*

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the workings of the 117th Congress, focusing on the legislative process, committee structures, and key political dynamics. It provides readers with an

insider's perspective on how bills are introduced, debated, and passed. Ideal for students and political enthusiasts, it breaks down complex procedures into understandable terms.

2. Legislative Priorities of the 117th Congress: Policy and Politics

Exploring the major policy areas addressed by the 117th Congress, this book examines the legislative agenda, including healthcare, infrastructure, and climate change. It analyzes the political motivations behind key bills and the negotiation tactics used by lawmakers. Readers gain insight into the challenges and compromises inherent in contemporary lawmaking.

3. Committee Power and Influence in the 117th Congress

This volume delves into the role of congressional committees during the 117th session, highlighting their impact on shaping legislation and oversight. It discusses major committees, their leadership, and how they manage hearings and markups. The book also evaluates the balance of power between committees and party leadership.

4. The Impact of the 117th Congress on American Democracy

Focusing on the broader implications of the 117th Congress's actions, this book assesses how legislative decisions have affected democratic institutions and public trust. It considers issues like partisanship, transparency, and voter engagement. The author argues for reforms to strengthen democratic governance in future sessions.

5. Profiles in Leadership: Key Figures of the 117th Congress

This book profiles influential members of the 117th Congress, detailing their backgrounds, political philosophies, and legislative achievements. It offers a balanced look at leaders from both parties and highlights their roles in shaping national policy. Readers can better understand the personal and political factors driving congressional leadership.

6. Legislative Challenges and Achievements of the 117th Congress

Covering both successes and setbacks, this book analyzes major legislative initiatives of the 117th Congress. Topics include pandemic response, economic recovery, and social justice reforms. It provides critical commentary on the effectiveness of congressional actions and the obstacles faced in

a polarized environment.

7. The Role of Technology and Innovation in the 117th Congress

This work explores how technological advancements influenced congressional activities during the 117th session. It looks at remote voting, digital communication with constituents, and cybersecurity legislation. The book also discusses how technology shaped transparency and public participation in the legislative process.

8. Negotiation and Bipartisanship in the 117th Congress

Examining efforts to bridge partisan divides, this book investigates key moments of negotiation and cooperation in the 117th Congress. It highlights bipartisan bills, coalition-building strategies, and the challenges of maintaining civility in a highly polarized political climate. The narrative offers lessons on effective legislative collaboration.

9. Understanding the 117th Congress: A Student's Workbook

Designed as an educational tool, this workbook provides exercises, case studies, and discussion questions related to the 117th Congress. It helps students engage actively with congressional topics, from bill drafting to committee hearings. The resource supports educators in teaching about American government and legislative processes.

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