



Federal Government: SS.7.CG.3.7  
**Structure, Powers & Processes  
of Federal Government**  
**VIDEO #1 SCRIPT**

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## **Legislative Branch: Structure and Lawmaking Video #1**

1. The legislative branch has an important role in making the government of the United States work. But, what does the legislative branch do?
2. After watching this video, you will understand
  - ✓ The structure of the legislative branch, and
  - ✓ How the legislative branch creates law

Let's get started!

3. Article I of the U.S. Constitution describes the structure and powers of the legislative branch. The Constitution outlines that the United States will have a two-house (or, bicameral) legislature. This includes the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together, these two houses are known as Congress.
4. Members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Members of the Senate are called Senators. Collectively, they are called Congressmen and Congresswomen. Representatives serve two-year terms of office, and senators serve six-year terms of office. Representatives and Senators can serve as many terms as they are elected.
5. The size of the House of Representatives is based on population. The more people a state has, the more representatives it gets. The size of the US Senate is based on equal representation. Regardless of a state's population, each state has two U.S. Senators.
6. The main job of Congress is to pass federal laws, called acts, which govern the people of the entire nation. Let's take a look at the lawmaking process.
7. An idea for a law can come from U.S. Representatives, Senators, the president, or even ordinary citizens. A proposed law is called a bill. Bills can be introduced in either house of Congress - the House of Representatives or the Senate.
8. Let's start in the House of Representatives. Once the bill has been introduced, it is sent to the appropriate committee that deals with the topic of the bill. That committee will do research on the bill. After the committee does its research and discusses the bill, the committee votes to decide if the bill should move to the next step.

9. If the committee agrees that the bill is a good idea and should move forward, the entire U.S. House of Representatives debates and votes on the bill.
10. Let's check in: Describe the lawmaking process as you have learned it so far,
11. ANSWER TO QUESTION
12. Ready, set, let's continue.
13. If the House of Representatives votes in favor of the bill, then the bill then moves to the U.S. Senate. Once the bill is in the Senate, it's assigned to the appropriate Senate.
14. Similar to what happens in the House of Representatives, if the Senate committee completes its research and agrees to move the bill ahead, the entire Senate debates and votes on the bill.
15. If the Senate votes for the bill, the president will then be asked to sign the bill so that it will become a law.
16. Let's check in: Add to your description of the lawmaking process. What comes next?
17. ANSWER TO QUESTION  
Well done!
18. Let's recap what we've learned so far. Article I covers the legislative branch. Congress is a bicameral, or two-house, legislature. Chambers are called the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House and Senate are responsible for lawmaking. For a bill to be passed by Congress, both the House and Senate must agree. For a bill to become law, the President must sign the bill passed by both the House and the Senate.
19. Now that you understand the structure of the legislative branch and how it makes law, I bet you can't wait to learn about some of its other jobs. Thanks for watching!