



*The Executive & Legislative Branch SS.7.CG.3.7*  
**National Government: Legislative Branch**  
**VIDEO SCRIPT**



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## **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS**

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 roles committees play in the legislative process, and
  - ◆ The role the US Senate plays in confirming presidential appointments.Let's get started!
3. Remember, committees are the first step to a bill becoming a law. Committees conduct research on bills, hold hearings and discussions on bills, and vote to recommend or not recommend bills for a vote by the full House of Representatives and Senate.
4. During the lawmaking process, bills go to the appropriate committee in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Committees are an important part of Congress.
5. Committees in Congress allow for bills to be reviewed and debated by smaller groups rather than the entire house. Committees allow for members of Congress to focus on specific topics, especially those issues that are important to the people that they represent.
6. After a committee debates a bill, they may decide that the bill is not a good idea and the bill ends in committee. Or, a committee votes for the bill and then it goes to the full House of Representatives or Senate for a vote.
7. There are several different types of committees. Let's learn about three: Standing, Special and Conference.
8. Standing committees are permanent committees that consider bills. Standing committees are in the House and the Senate, are made up of Representatives or Senators, and include members of both political parties.
9. Conference committees are temporary committees that are created to make changes to bills that have been passed by both houses of Congress. These committees have members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and of both political parties.
10. Special committees are created to focus on a specific topic such as intelligence or aging. Special committees include members of a single house of Congress, and include members of both political parties.
11. Let's check in: What are standing committees?  
→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

12. What are conference committees?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

13. What are special committees?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

Well done!

14. Let's recap what we've learned so far. Committees hold hearings, conduct research, and write policy. Committees allow for members of Congress to focus on specific topics that are important to the people they represent.

15. There are three types of committees in Congress: standing committees, conference committees, and special committees, each with their own sets of rules and responsibilities.

16. Now that you understand the role congressional committees play in the lawmaking process, let's look at the role the Senate plays in presidential appointments.

17. Another important job of the legislative branch, specifically the Senate in this case, is to confirm, or officially approve, presidential appointments. But what does this mean exactly?

18. The president has the power to appoint ambassadors, appoint cabinet members, appoint federal judges and appoint other high-level government positions. However, it is the job of the Senate to formally approve these appointments.

19. When a president nominates someone for one of these positions, it goes to the Senate and is then sent to the committee that deals with issues related to the nominated position. For example, the Senate Judiciary Committee reviews federal judge and Supreme Court justice nominees.

20. The committee reviews the nominee, researches the nominee's background, holds hearings where the nominee and other witnesses testify, and then committee members vote on whether or not they recommend the nominee to the full Senate.

21. The full Senate then debates and votes on whether the nominee should be confirmed. The president is notified once a vote is taken. If the Senate confirms the nominee, that person takes the oath of office, sworn in by the president, vice-president, or a federal judge.

22. Let's check in- What is the role of the Senate with presidential appointments?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

23. Let's recap what we've learned so far. The president appoints ambassadors, cabinet members, federal judges, and other high ranking officials. The Senate must confirm, or formally approve, the president's choice for them to take office. If the Senate does not confirm, or formally approve, the President's choice, the President must choose someone else to take the office.