

Reading questions for AP Government 13:334-345. Answer completely and in complete sentences.

1. Characterize the job of the president pro tem of the Senate.
2. What is the principal task of the Senate Majority Leader?
3. Why does a small majority in the senate not mean an automatic pass for the majority party to pass any bill it wants?
4. In general, how does the job of Speaker of the House differ from President pro Tem of the Senate?
5. What does a whip do in Congress?
6. House Republicans have a group called the research Committee. What does it do?
7. Senate Democrats have a Steering Committee. What does it do?
8. What is a caucus, and what benefits do members of Congress derive from them?
9. Read over the list of caucuses in the chart on p. 341.
 - a) What two caucuses would you be a member of if you were a congressman?
 - b) What is a third caucus that you would want to create to serve an interest or need as a member of Congress?
10. What is the most important organizational feature of Congress?

Paragraph: The minority party in the Senate will not hesitate to use the filibuster to stop action on any bill it either doesn't like outright, or wants major change to. Is the filibuster in your opinion a legitimate use of minority power, or is it an obstructionist tactic that needs to be abolished?