

Institutions of Government

Legislative Branch

1. reapportionment vs. redistricting vs. gerrymandering
2. difference in passing a bill: House vs. Senate
3. Incumbency Advantage: why members of Congress rarely lose
4. party leadership positions vs. seniority system
5. The impact of party polarization on divided government and gridlock
6. filibuster vs. cloture
7. types of committees (standing/select/joint/conference) and what committees members of Congress want to get on.
8. trustee vs. delegate vs. politico as related to constituent accountability in each chamber
9. Making deals: logrolling and pork barrel legislation

Executive Branch

10. veto vs. pocket veto vs. line-item veto
11. Incumbent vs. lame duck
12. Fed 70: exploring the power of the President. The vesting clause & unitary executive.
13. pardon vs. reprieve vs. amnesty

14. formal vs. informal requirements of the presidency
15. Amendments that impact the presidency
16. roles/responsibility of the VP
17. The War Powers Act and conflicting warmaking powers
18. Executive orders vs signing statements

Judiciary Branch

19. majority vs. concurring vs. dissenting opinion
20. Fed 78
21. original vs. appellate jurisdiction
22. Judicial activism vs. judicial restraint
23. Solicitor General vs. Attorney General
24. Senatorial courtesy (blue slip policy) vs. litmus test
25. Latin as the language of the courts (stare decisis, certiorari, amicus curie, etc)

Supreme Court Cases:

Clinton v. New York

U.S. v. Nixon

New York Times v. US

Baker v. Carr

Marbury v. Madison

Shaw v. Reno