

Name:

Chapter 8, Section 2

How the Federal Government Works

**Directions:** Read p. 252 – 254 [RED TEXTBOOK] and complete the outline as you read.

I. Setting the Scene

A. What is the name of the speech given by the President in front of Congress?

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1. In your own words, describe the purpose of this speech.

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II. The Legislative Branch

A. Which Article of the Constitution sets up and explains the Legislative Branch? -----

1. What is the main power of Congress? -----

2. What groups is Congress divided into? -----

B. House of Representatives

1. How many members make up the House of Representatives? -----

2. What is this number based on? -----

3. What is the smallest number of Representatives allowed for a state? -----

4. How long does a representative serve for? -----

5. Who is the leader of the House? -----

6. Why is this important position to hold? -----

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C. The Senate

1. How is the number of Senators determined? -----

2. How long do Senators serve for? -----

3. How were Senators originally chosen? -----

a. How was that rule changed? -----

4. Who is in charge of the Senate? -----

a. What job does he perform? -----

b. Who is second-in-command? -----

## D. Powers of Congress

1. How does the law process begin in Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

2. One example of a proposed law that ***must*** begin in the House:

3. How is a proposed law approved and made official? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Four other examples of the powers of Congress:

## E. The Elastic Clause

1. What does Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 say?

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

2. What does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Explain why this concerns many Americans. \_\_\_\_\_

## F. Committees

1. Why do members of Congress serve on committees? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Three examples of Congressional committees:

3. What is a ***joint committee***? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What is the purpose of the joint committee? \_\_\_\_\_