*QUESTIONS*

1. Answer the following:
   1. “How does Congress combine its roles of representing constituents and making effective public policy?”
   2. “[D]o the benefits of servicing constituents provide an incentive for members of Congress to tolerate—even to expand—an already big government?”
2. What are your thoughts on the “perks” for members of Congress listed in the chapter?
3. Reread Article I of the [United States Constitution](http://www.bmoore.net/apusgov/documents/Constitution.pdf) and summarize its key points.
4. Raw numbers are sometimes difficult to put into context; figure-out the percentages of each characteristic on in Table 12.1 and comment on your findings.
5. Answer these rhetorical questions posed in the chapter:
   1. How important are the personal characteristics of members of Congress?
   2. Can a group of predominantly White, upper-middle-class, middle-ages Protestant males adequately represent a much more diverse population?
   3. Would a group of more typical citizens be more effective in making major policy decisions?
6. Discuss the substantive differences between descriptive and substantive representation.
7. Why do “[i]ncumbents usually win?”
8. Do you think the text's explanation of why incumbents win is accurate?
9. Comment on the three primary activities which increase incumbents “re-electability:” advertising, credit-claiming, and position-taking.
10. The text makes it sound nearly impossible to defeat an incumbent, but it can—and has—been done; how would you stage a campaign to up-seat an incumbent?
11. “Should we impose term limits on members of Congress?”
12. Comment on the relative differences between the United States House of Representatives and Senate.
13. How does each of the house's leadership function?
14. Explain the importance of congressional committees in the American legislative process.
15. The text explains in Figure 12.2 how a bill becomes a law; after watching the [Schoolhouse Rock vignette](https://www.youtube.com/v/FFroMQlKiag), comment on the process' relative democratic process.