**Government**

**Packet 2 Overview:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>ESSENTIAL QUESTION:</th>
<th>How has the Legislative Branch responded to the COVID-19 crisis?</th>
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| PROCEDURES:         | **Day 1:** Look over the infographic/flowchart labeled “How does a Bill Become a Law?”. Then answer the 5 questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #1”.  
**Day 2:** Please read the article titled “Partisan outrage erupts…”. Then answer the 7 questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #2”.  
**Day 3:** Please read the article excerpt titled “5 Key Things in the $2 Trillion Coronavirus Stimulus Package”. Then answer the 4 questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #3 Part 1”. Then using all of the information you have learned in this packet complete the writing assignment in the box labeled “Assignment #3 Part 2”. |
| WORK TO BE RETURNED:| **Assignment 1:** Responses to 5 questions  
**Assignment 2:** Responses to 7 questions  
**Assignment 3:** Part 1: Responses to 4 questions  
Part 2: Constructed Response |
| RESOURCES:          | -How a Bill Becomes a Law infographic  
-NBC News Article: Partisan Outrage..  
-New York Times Article: 5 Key things..  
| TIME ALLOCATED:     | **Assignment 1:** 10 minutes  
**Assignment 2:** 15 minutes  
**Assignment 3:** 35 minutes |
HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW?

1. EVERY LAW STARTS WITH AN IDEA

That idea can come from anyone, even you! Contact your elected officials to share your idea. If they want to try to make it a law, they will write a bill.

2. THE BILL IS INTRODUCED

A bill can start in either house of Congress when it’s introduced by its primary sponsor, a Senator or a Representative. In the House of Representatives, bills are placed in a wooden box called “the hopper.”

3. THE BILL GOES TO COMMITTEE

Representatives or Senators meet in a small group to research, talk about, and make changes to the bill. They vote to accept or reject the bill and its changes before sending it to:

- the House or Senate floor for debate or
- to a subcommittee for further research.

4. CONGRESS DEBATES AND VOTES

Members of the House or Senate can now debate the bill and propose changes or amendments before voting. If the majority vote for and pass the bill, it moves to the other house to go through a similar process of committees, debate, and voting. Both houses have to agree on the same version of the final bill before it goes to the President.

5. PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

When the bill reaches the President, he or she can:

- **APPROVE and PASS**
  - The President signs and approves the bill. The bill is law.

  - **The President can also:**
    - **Veto**
      - The President rejects the bill and returns it to Congress with the reasons for the veto. Congress can override the veto with 2/3 vote of those present in both the House and the Senate and the bill will become law.
    - **Choose no action**
      - The President can decide to do nothing. If Congress is in session, after 10 days of no answer from the President, the bill then automatically becomes law.
    - **Pocket veto**
      - If Congress adjourns (goes out of session) within the 10 day period after giving the President the bill, the President can choose not to sign it and the bill will not become law.

DID YOU KNOW?

The House uses an electronic voting system while the Senate typically votes by voice, saying “yay” or “nay.”

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Assignment #1-Review of the Legislative Process
Directions: Use the infographic titled “How does a Bill Become a Law?” to answer the questions listed below. The infographic and questions should refresh your memory of how a bill becomes a law.

1. Describe how the legislative process gets started.

2. According to this flowchart, which branch of government is NOT a part of the legislative process? ____________________

3. Using the flowchart brainstorm all the ways a bill can die or remain unpassed.

4. Congress’ ability to override a President’s veto is an example of which principle of democracy? (circle one)
   a. Limited Government  b. Separation of Powers
   c. Checks and Balances  d. Federalism

5. Number the general steps of the legislative process with 1 being the first step and 5 the last step.
   ______ Committee debates and decides whether to send the bill to the full Congress
   ______ The bill is introduced
   ______ House and Senate debate and vote on the bill
   ______ The President signs the bill making it federal law
   ______ The House and Senate approve the bill and send it to the President

Partisan Outrage erupts in the Senate as coronavirus stimulus bill fails for a second time

NBC News/ March 23, 2020, 10:59 AM EDT / Updated March 23, 2020, 3:33 PM EDT
WASHINGTON — Partisan tensions erupted on Monday afternoon as the Senate failed for a second time to advance a massive stimulus package to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, with lawmakers accusing the other political party of holding up negotiations.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., blasted Democrats ahead of the vote, saying, "Tax credits for solar energy and wind energy. Provisions to force employers to give special new treatment to Big Labor. And listen to this — new emissions standards for the airlines. Are you kidding me?"

McConnell said.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., offered a more optimistic impression on the status of the talks, saying: "We're very close to reaching a deal — very close. And our goal is to reach a deal today."

Schumer dismissed McConnell's criticisms and said asking for protections for workers and labor "are not extraneous issues" but instead "a wish list for workers, nobody else."

Democrats and Republicans in Congress remained deadlocked Monday morning over the package, with Democrats arguing that the current version wouldn't protect workers enough and would be too lax on corporate bailout rules. Ahead of Monday's vote, members from both parties traded thoughts over what needed to be done.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said: "We are in the midst of a crisis in our country, a crisis caused by the coronavirus. I cannot believe that the answer to this crisis as we move to address the economic consequences that are so severe for the people of this country — that the answer from our friends on the other side of the aisle is delay, delay, delay. No sense of urgency, no hurry."

Meanwhile, Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said: "This is a policy disagreement, and I have an obligation as a representative of my state to stand up and say when I don't think a $2 trillion bill is going to fix the problem. It may make a lot of people rich, but it doesn't have the resources in it today to take care of the most vulnerable in this country, and it's not going to do the primary job at hand, which is to stop the virus."

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Assignment #2- Disagreement in Congress over a Coronavirus stimulus bill

Directions: Read the article from NBC news describing the deadlock that occurred in Congress regarding a bill to provide relief to Americans during the coronavirus pandemic. Then answer the questions that follow using what you learned in Assignment #1 to help you.

1. Briefly describe what the coronavirus bill discussed in the article is designed to do.
2. According to the article, which house of Congress has been unable to come to an agreement on the proposed bill?

3. Using the chart from Assignment #1 as support, if either house of Congress is unable to approve the bill what could happen to the bill?

4. What do you think the response from the American people looking to the government for help might be if the possible outcome you came up with in #3 became a reality?

5. Describe the problems Republicans like Mitch McConnell and Susan Collins see with the current bill.

6. Describe the problems Democrats like Chris Murphy see with the current bill.

7. In 3-4 sentences, give your opinion on whether you think politics (in this case, sticking with your political party) serves a positive or negative role in Congress during a national crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic. Explain your answer using details from the reading.

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5 Key Things in the $2 Trillion Coronavirus Stimulus Package

*By Catie Edmonson/NY Times/March 28th, 2020*

President Donald Trump signed a $2 trillion coronavirus relief bill on Friday, March 27th, 2020. The $2 trillion rescue package to confront the coronavirus pandemic is the largest economic stimulus measure in modern history.

Here’s what’s in the package.

**The government will send direct payments to taxpayers.** Lawmakers agreed to provide $1,200 in direct payments to taxpayers with incomes up to $75,000 per year before starting to phase out and
ending altogether for those earning more than $99,000. Families would receive an additional $500 per child, in an attempt to create a safety net for those whose jobs and businesses are affected by the pandemic.

**Unemployment benefits will grow substantially, and go to many more Americans.** Lawmakers agreed to a significant expansion of unemployment benefits that would extend jobless insurance by 13 weeks and include a four-month enhancement of benefits. At the insistence of Democrats, the program was broadened to include freelancers, furloughed employees and gig workers, such as Uber drivers.

**Small businesses will receive emergency loans if they keep their workers.** The bill provides federally guaranteed loans available at community banks to small businesses that pledge not to lay off their workers. The loans would be available during an emergency period ending June 30, and would be forgiven if the employer continued to pay workers for the duration of the crisis.

**Distressed companies can receive government bailouts — but with strings attached.** Loans for distressed companies would come from a $425 billion fund controlled by the Federal Reserve, and an additional $75 billion would be available for industry-specific loans — including to airlines and hotels. Democrats also secured a provision ensuring that Trump family businesses — or those of any other senior government officials — cannot receive loan money through that fund, though they could potentially still benefit from other parts of the bill.

**Hospitals staggering under the burden of the coronavirus would receive aid.** The agreement includes $100 billion for hospitals and health systems across the nation, Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York and the minority leader, told Democrats in an early morning letter. It also includes billions more, he said, to furnish personal and protective equipment and increased for health care workers, testing supplies, and new construction to house patients. Lawmakers also agreed to increase Medicare payment increases to all hospitals and providers, the letter said.

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**Assignment #3 Part 1**

**Directions:** Above is an excerpt from NY Times describing some of the details of the Coronavirus Relief Bill that was signed into law on Friday, March 27th, 2020. Please answer the following questions after learning about the specifics of the relief package.

1. Utilizing the chart in Assignment #1 as needed. If the bill finally passed the Senate and has now become a law we can assume that what two other Government groups/people approved the bill?

2. What makes the Coronavirus Relief Bill that passed historic?

3. Describe three different groups that will be positively impacted by the Coronavirus Relief Bill.

4. Be critical and name and explain one flaw or something missing from the Coronavirus Relief Bill.

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**Assignment #3 Part 2**

**Directions:** Utilizing all of the concepts/topics you have learned about in this packet please complete the following writing assignment. Your response should be **at least 3 paragraphs** and cover the following bulleted questions/points.

- How does the Legislative Process ensure that bills are carefully looked at and reviewed? (Assignment #1)
- How did fierce political rivalries play a role in agreeing on the coronavirus relief bill? (Assignment #2)
- Summarize the details of the passed coronavirus relief bill. (Assignment #3)
• Give your overall opinion on whether you think the Coronavirus Relief Bill will help enough American citizens during this crisis. (Personal Opinion)