

Facts of Congress

Overview

Facts of Congress are short, animated video pieces for students in grades four through high school. They are designed to teach students the basics of Congress in a way that is both educational and entertaining. These **Facts of Congress** explain how Congress works. Although **Facts of Congress** are designed for students in grades four through high school, other students, teachers, parents, and citizens may find the videos useful and interesting.

Below is a description of each **Fact of Congress**.

Representation

This **Fact of Congress** explains who represents citizens in Congress and introduces the term *legislate*. It also describes the difference between the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Compromise

This **Fact of Congress** explains why the word *compromise* is an important congressional concept and discusses the Great Compromise.

Filibuster

This **Fact of Congress** discusses filibustering and explains why sometimes it's important to slow down the legislative process.

How to Watch the Facts of Congress

These videos can be viewed in a variety of ways, depending on your school's technology, such as using a projection setup or a computer lab. Clicking on the link for any video will automatically play the **Fact on Congress** in a new window.

Windows Media®:

- You can pause the video by clicking on the video or by clicking the PAUSE button. The PLAY button will resume the video.
- Use the slider bar if you would like to rewind or fast-forward the video.
- If you'd like the video to fill your entire screen, click the MAXIMIZE button. (Mac users enter "Command-4.")
- To exit "Full Screen" mode, hit ESCAPE on your keyboard.

QuickTime®:

- You can pause the video by clicking on the video or by clicking the PAUSE button. The PLAY button will resume the video.
- You can rewind or fast-forward the video by clicking those buttons.
- If you'd like the video to fill your entire screen, click the MAXIMIZE button.
- To exit "Full Screen" mode, click the MINIMIZE button.

Teacher Materials

Each **Fact of Congress** has accompanying teacher materials: correlations to academic standards in 49 states, a list of key terms, discussion questions, and suggested classroom activities. These suggestions span a range of subjects and skill levels, so not every idea will apply to your situation. Choose what works best for your students. The teacher materials are available in PDF format and may be downloaded and printed.

