Congress: Our Legislative Branch

- 1. Structure
 - a. House of Representatives
 - i. 435 Members
 - # per state based on population
 - ii. 2 year terms
 - iii. Lower House
 - iv. Closer to the People
 - v. Qualifications
 - 1. **25** or older
 - 2. 7 years citizenship
 - 3. Live where you represent
 - b. Senate
 - i. 100 Members
 - 1. 2 per state
 - ii. Qualifications
 - 1. 30 or older
 - 2. 9 years citizenship
 - 3. Live where you represent

- iii. 6 year terms
- iv. Upper House
- 2. Checks on Congress
 - a. Both Houses must agree to pass a law
 - b. President must sign bills
 - c. Judicial Review can invalidate laws
 - d. May impeach
 - e. Senate confirms treaties/
 presidential appointments
- 3. Enumerated Powers
 - a. Tax
 - b. Borrow
 - c. Coin money
 - d. Regulate interstate commerce
 - e. Declare war
 - f. Establish patents & copyrights
 - g. Establish lower federal courts
 - h. Raise and support armies
 - i. Maintain navy

- j. Establish post offices
- 4. Implied Powers
 - a. "Necessary and Proper" Clause (Elastic clause)
- 5. How a Bill becomes a law
 - a. Bill introduced
 - b. Bill sent to committee
 - c. If reported favorably by committee, bill debated and voted on by house
 - d. Bill sent to other house
 - e. Conference committee irons out differences
 - f. Bill given to President for approval or veto
 - g.Congress overrides veto with 2/3 vote in each house