



UNITED STATES CONGRESS

CongressLab! Representation Priorities

Senator's Representation Worksheet
(Print & Bring to Class)

Days in DC

You only have so many days in a week and hours in a day. How are you going to spend your time? Do you want more time in Washington legislating or more time back in your state? How many days will you work in Washington?

Congress is generally in session for 10 months out of the year (with small breaks for holidays throughout the year). When Congress is in session, what day and time of the week would you arrive to start work in Washington?

Arrival Day & Time:

Departure Day & Time:

What's your reason for these choices? (1-2 sentences)

Hours in DC

When you're in Washington, what kinds of tasks will you prioritize in your legislative duties? Let's say you have **10 hours of work in the day**. How many hours will you devote to each task? (Let's say your next election for Senate is next year.) This does not account for time spent back in your home state, just DC time.

- Fundraising for Reelection _____ hours
- Meeting with Constituents _____ hours
- Drafting your own Sponsored National Legislation _____ hours
- Doing Committee Work (work on others' bills, investigations) _____ hours
- Drafting Amendments & Bills directly benefiting your home state _____ hours
- Meetings to Coordinate Your Party's Strategy in the Senate _____ hours
- Voting & speeches on the floor _____ hours
- Planning meetings with your staff (election, constituents, legislation, ...) _____ hours

What's your reason for these choices? (1-2 sentences)

Influences on Your Committee Choices, Bill Sponsoring, & Votes

How will you decide how to act in Congress? Choose the extent to which each factor will influence your votes, keeping in mind that many are overlapping rather than distinct. Give a rating from 0 to 7, where 0 = no influence and 7 = almost total influence. Circle one for each category.

	No influence							Almost total	
The overall interests of the people of your state	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The preferences of the people of your state	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Your national party leaders	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The business community in your state	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The preferences of the people who voted for you	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The preferences of your campaign contributors	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The President (of the opposite party)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Overall interests of the nation as a whole	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Overall preferences of the nation as a whole	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The preferences of your party's primary voters	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The preferences of industry lobbyists	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The interests of people of your race/sex/etc.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The interests of underprivileged groups	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The preferences of national business leaders	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
What you personally believe is morally right	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Explain some of your priorities guiding these choices: 1-3 sentences.

Are there any other influences on your vote not listed above? If so, explain briefly here.