



Worksheet 8 – Evaluating Statements and Discussion

Evaluate the following three proposals for congressional reform and discuss:

Whether they are feasible and

Whether they would allow Congress to function more effectively:

Change the legislative process: remove some of the obstacles that prevent bills becoming law. Examples might include abolishing the need for ‘super-majorities’ in certain cases, reforming the rules of debate (Senate filibusters) and reducing the ability of committees (and their chairs) to control the passage of legislation.

Encourage greater bi-partisan co-operation: increase the number of moderate candidates elected to Congress through reforming not only the way parties select candidates, but also tackling the problem of gerrymandering districts by extremists to create safe seats for their preferred candidates.

Require greater transparency: reduce the number of committees and subcommittees and avoid over-lapping jurisdictions to make the legislative process easier for members of the public to understand. Improve the regulation of lobbying and enforcing codes of ethics to allow greater public scrutiny of congressional activity.