

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## What Happens After a Bill is Introduced in Congress?

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The journey of a bill from its introduction in Congress to becoming a law involves multiple steps. After introduction, it goes through committee review, floor debate and voting in its chamber of origin, repeats the process in the other chamber if necessary, and may involve a conference committee if the chambers disagree. Finally, the President can sign it into law, veto it, or take no action.
2. Committees in the legislative process play a vital role in shaping proposed laws. They examine bills, hold hearings, and debate their merits, often amending them to improve their quality. Committees ensure that bills are thoroughly reviewed and well-crafted before they proceed to a full chamber for consideration.
3. The President's role in the final stage of the legislative process ensures checks and balances in our government. The President can sign a bill into law, providing executive approval, or veto it to prevent it from becoming law. This power ensures that the President has a say in the creation of laws, but Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds majority vote.
4. Transparency and public involvement in the legislative process are crucial for a healthy democracy. Hearings and debates allow lawmakers to consider different viewpoints, gather expert opinions, and ensure that the public's voice is heard. This transparency fosters trust in the legislative process and ensures that laws are created with the best interests of the people in mind.

