

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The House of Representatives: Shaping Laws for Our Nation

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Representation in the House of Representatives is based on the principle of "government by the people." Representatives are elected by voters in congressional districts, and their role is to represent the interests and concerns of the American people in the legislative process. This ensures that government decisions are made with the input and consent of the citizens they serve.
2. Oversight and investigation conducted by House committees are essential for holding the executive branch accountable and ensuring that government agencies operate lawfully and in the best interest of the public. An example of an issue investigated by the House is the Watergate scandal in the 1970s, where congressional committees uncovered misconduct within the executive branch.
3. The House of Representatives plays a significant role in crafting the federal budget by initiating revenue bills and determining how federal funds are allocated. This power influences government spending by allowing the House to prioritize and fund programs and initiatives that align with its policy goals and the needs of the American people.
4. An example of a bill that passed through the House of Representatives and the Senate to become a federal law is the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or "Obamacare." The ACA aimed to reform the healthcare system in the United States. It went through a rigorous legislative process, including committee reviews, floor debates, and votes in both chambers. Ultimately, it was signed into law by President Barack Obama. This process demonstrated the important roles played by the House and the Senate in shaping federal legislation.

