

Name _____

The Mighty Purse: Congress's Power of the Purse Strings

Short Answer Key

1. The "power of the purse" refers to Congress's authority to control government spending and allocate funds. It is crucial because it allows Congress to shape government policy, hold the executive branch accountable, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent in accordance with national priorities.
2. The "power of the purse" grants Congress influence by controlling funding for programs and agencies. For example, if Congress wishes to prioritize education, it can allocate more funds to the Department of Education, thereby influencing education policy and initiatives.
3. Congress is responsible for creating the federal budget, outlining how government funds are allocated. It also oversees government activities by conducting hearings, audits, and investigations to ensure efficient resource utilization.
4. Disagreements over the budget can lead to government shutdowns, which can impact government employees, services, and the economy. Essential services may be affected, and government operations can come to a temporary halt.
5. The "power of the purse" serves as a check on the executive branch by giving Congress the authority to approve or deny funding for executive initiatives. This allows Congress to ensure that the executive branch operates in accordance with congressional priorities and policies.

