**AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**REVIEW OF KEY TERMS**

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| **KEY TERM** | **DEFINITION** | **EXAMPLE** |
| **Gerrymandering** | The deliberate drawing of the boundaries of districts in a way that gives one party an unfair advantage over its rivals. Both parties do it and it is legal but not democratic. The party that controls each state legislature gets to decide how to do it! The term is derived from the name of Governor **[Elbridge Gerry](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/231862/Elbridge-Gerry)** of Massachusetts, whose administration enacted a law in 1812 defining new state districts | California voters took the power to ‘gerrymander’ away from the majority party by appointing an ‘independent’ commission to redraw the districts every ten years after the census count. |
| **Writ of Cetiorari** | A formal document issued from the Supreme Court to a lower federal court or state court that calls up a case for review. It takes 4 of the 9 Supreme Court justices to agree to call up a case for review this is known as the- “Rule of Four” | The Supreme Court agrees to hear the California case that banned same sex marriage in 2008. The Court issued a ‘writ of cetiorari’ after 5 of the justices agreed to hear the appeal. |
| **Earmarks** | Members of Congress use "earmarks" to provide federal funding $$$  to companies, projects, groups and organizations, often in their district. | Congressman Mark Takano votes for a $70 billion transportation bill that ‘earmarks’ $97 million for Freeway 91 improvements  <http://www.opensecrets.org/earmarks/> |
| **Pork Barrel** | Similar to ‘earmarks’ but with a negative meaning. One Congresswo/man’s ‘earmark’ is criticized as “pork” in the budget or ‘fat” that needs to be cut or trimmed off | Congressman Mark Takano gets criticized for voting for the transportation bill that brings money to the 91 Freeway instead of money for expanding Metrolink rail which is cheaper and cleaner for the air pollution and helps reduce global warming etc…. |
| **Mandates** | Usually from the federal government to the states. ‘Mandate” is an order to do something sometimes with money from the Feds, sometimes without | The Americans with Disabilities Act has a federal ‘mandate” to create handicapped bathroom stalls, wheel chair ramps and sidewalk ‘cuts” on every interception in every American city – this ‘mandate’ is unfunded ☹ |
| **Cloture** | The cloture rule is the only formal procedure that Senate rules provide for breaking a filibuster. A filibuster is an attempt to block or delay Senate action on a bill or other matter by talking it to death by holding the right to speak forever as long as the Senator continually speaks. Under cloture, the Senate may limit consideration of a pending matter but it takes 60 votes of the 100 Senators to invoke cloture | Senate republicans tried to filibuster passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with a filibuster. Senate Democrats, with the help of President Johnson gathered 62 votes to invoke “cloture” and the bill proceeded to a full vote in the Senate and eventually passed. |
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| **Gubernatorial** | From the same root word meaning as ‘Presidential”. Having everything to do with the Governor of any of the 50 states. | The California “Gubernatorial” campaign will heat up this summer as the vote will be in November of 2014 as Governor Brown is running for a record 4th term. |
| **Monetary**  **Policy** | The manipulation of the supply of money which the government can control to help the economy stay steady | The Federal Reserve bank can control the money supply by printing more or less money which in turn influences the inflation rate. The Fed Bank also controls the interest rates charged for bank loans |
| **Fiscal**  **Policy** | The policy that describes the impact of the federal government’s budget- taxes, spending and borrowing of money and its impact on the economy | President Obama’s policy of raising taxes on the wealthy Americans has lowered the debt but also slowed economic growth |
| **Delegate Model of**  **Congressional Representation** | The **delegate model of representation** is a model of a [representative democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy). In this model, [constituents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_district) elect their representatives as [delegates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delegates) for their [constituency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituency). These delegates act only as a mouthpiece for the wishes of their constituency, and have no [autonomy](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/autonomy) from the constituency. This model does not provide representatives the luxury of acting in their own conscience | Most Congresswo/men are very in touch with the voters. They ask voters to tell them thru email and phone calls how they would like them to vote on a certain bill. They feel they are only your delegate and will vote according to your command. It’s not always so simple because you may disagree with the majority of voters in your district but hope that on the next bill your side will have the Congresswo/men’s vote. |
| **Trustee Model**  **of**  **Congressional**  **Representation** | [Constituents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_district) elect their representatives as **'**[**trustees**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trustees)**'** (or 'entrust' them) for their [constituency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituency). These 'trustees' have sufficient [autonomy](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/autonomy) to deliberate and act in favor of the greater common good and [national interest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_interest), even if it means going against the short-term interests of their own constituencies | This model allows the Congresswo/men to vote against the voters needs and want if there is a pressing national issue or if the party demands them to vote one way or the other. |
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