Basic Government Processes 101

Government 101 Video
• Legislative
• Executive
• Judicial
The U.S. Congress

- **Bicameral** – 2 chambers
  - Senate
    - 100 members
    - 2 per state
    - 6-year term
  - House
    - 435
    - 2-year term
    - Tied to population of state
Powers of Congress

• **Passing legislation:** Congress has the power to pass laws on a variety of subjects, including taxation, national defense, and civil rights.

• **Overseeing the executive branch:** Congress can investigate and oversee the activities of the executive branch, including the President and federal agencies.

• **Controlling the budget:** Congress controls the federal budget and must approve any spending by the government. This includes setting tax rates, creating spending bills, and appropriating funds for specific programs and projects.

• **Declaring war:** Congress has the power to declare war, although this power has been largely delegated to the President in recent years.

• **Regulating commerce:** Congress can regulate interstate commerce, including trade between states and with foreign countries. This includes setting standards for products, services, and industries that operate across state lines.
Executive Branch

• Led by the President

• Accepts or Rejects Legislation

• Carries Out Laws

• Oversees Departments
  • (Education, Labor, Energy, Defense etc.)
Judicial Branch

- Federal Courts decide disputes involving the U.S. Constitution, federal laws, and disputes between states
- District Courts, Courts of Appeals, and the Supreme Court
- Federal judges appointed for life