

Vocabulary – Chapter 12

congressional page	A high school junior who works as a messenger and errand runner in the House or Senate. Candidates for this position must be sponsored by a senator or representative from their home state.
seniority rule	The tradition that a congressional committee member's seniority-the number of years of unbroken service on a committee-determines that member's position on the committee.
filibuster	The tactic of using endless speeches on the Senate floor to delay or prevent passage of legislation. Filibusters are not permitted in the House.
cloture	The process used to end a filibuster in the Senate. At least 60 senators must support a cloture vote to overcome a filibuster.
hold	A request by a senator to delay action on a bill. A senator who puts a hold on a bill is, in effect, announcing an intention to launch a filibuster if the bill is sent to the Senate floor for a vote.
rider	An amendment attached to a bill that has little or no relation to the subject of the bill.
Christmas tree bill	A bill with so many riders attached to it that it seems to offer something for everyone.
logrolling	The trading of votes among legislators to ensure the passage of different bills in which those legislators have a special interest.