**IV. Congressional Committees**

1. Committees Purposes

* Every year Congress considers 10,000+ of bills
* Would be impossible for every member of Congress to read every bill
* Members divide bills to be examined by committee members

1. Standing Committees

* **Standing Committees –**
* All bills must go to a standing committee before they become laws
* Make changes to revise bills

1. Subcommittees

* **Subcommittees –**
* Subcommittees also continue from one session to another

1. Select Committee

* **Select Committees –**
* Usually set up to last only one term of Congress
* Investigate government scandals and other issues of public concern

1. Joint Committees

* **Joint Committees –**
* Temporary committees that usually are given little power

1. Conference Committees

* **Conference Committees –**

* Helps resolve the differences between two different bills
* **Compromise Bill –**

G. Seniority System

* **Seniority –**
* **Seniority System –**
* **1994 –**

* Speaker gets to pick the chair of each committee in the House
* Gives the Speaker tremendous power