TLW compare and contrast the leadership in the House and Senate.

**QUESTION**

Who is in charge of the House?

Who is in charge of the Senate?

**Leadership in Congress**

*House of Representatives*

- **Speaker**
  - Presides over the House
  - Appoints select and *conference committees*
  - Appoints *Rules Committee* members and its chairman
  - Assigns bills to committees
  - Third in line for presidency after VP
  - Informal powers, e.g., access to media
Leadership in Congress

• Majority Leader/Minority Leader
  – Partisan positions chosen by party members
  – Floor leaders and legislative strategists

• Majority Whip/Minority Whip
  – Assistant floor leaders
  – Inform party leaders on “mood” of House
  – Keep nose count on important votes
  – Persuade party members to vote with party
  – Liaison between party leadership and rank and file membership

Leadership in Congress

• Rules Committee:
  – Sets legislative calendar (agenda)—“traffic cop” of the House
  – Issues rules for debate and amendment (open rule allows former, closed rule does not)

Senate

• Vice President
  – President of Senate
  – Presides over Senate
  – Votes in case of ties
  – Ceremonial job

Leadership in Congress

• President Pro Tempore
  – Ceremonial job
  – Presides in absence of VP
  – Fourth in line for presidency

• Majority Leader
  – True leader in Senate
  – Recognized first for all debates—w/power to filibuster, this gives Majority Leader strong influence on bills
  – True leader of majority party
Leadership in Congress

- Influences committee assignments of senators
- Influences Senate agenda, along with Minority Leader
- Informal powers, e.g., of using media
- Minority Leader and party Whips: same as House
- Filibuster
  - Nonstop debate to kill a bill
  - Threat of filibuster as good as a filibuster itself—places pressure on bill’s sponsor to change parts of bill
  - Especially effective at the end of term
  - Can be ended by 3/5 vote of cloture

Leadership in Congress

- Holds
  - Any senator can place a hold on a bill or nomination, and thus delay these indefinitely
  - In past, used as courtesy for members who were absent on key votes
  - Now—used for policy purposes, e.g. to stop a judicial nomination b/c the nominee is ideologically unacceptable to a Senator
  - To exercise—a senator informs floor leader s/he does not want the bill to be considered—implied threat of filibuster and need for “unanimous consent” for Senate to proceed on business result in bill/nom. being held up

SUMMARIZE NOTES

- The most important step of note taking is to take what you have written down and write a summary.
- At the end of your notes—
  - WRITE a 20 word summary compare/contrast the leadership in House/Senate.