

Social Studies Virtual Learning

AP US Gov & Politics

Part 1: Introduction to Bureaucracy

April 20, 2020

AP US Gov & Politics

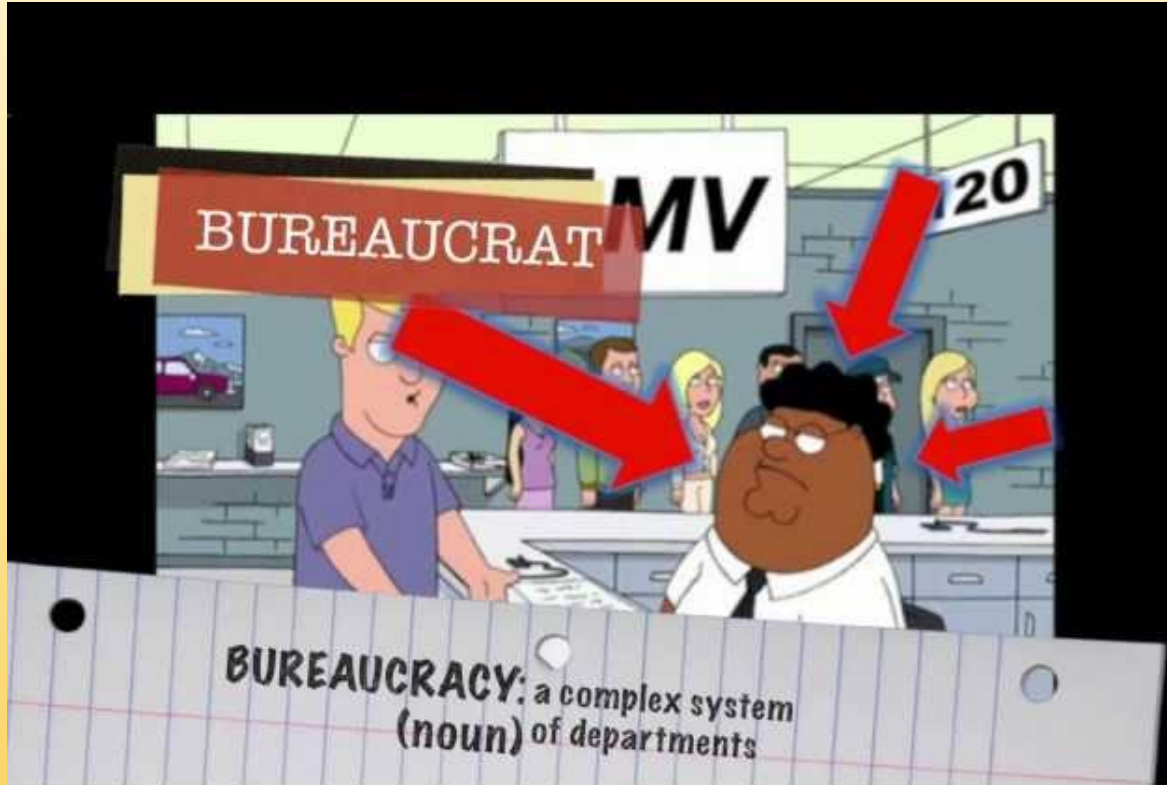
Lesson #29: April 20th, 2020

Learning Target (PMI-2.A) : Explain how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.

Warm Up:

Get a piece of paper and answer these questions from the video:

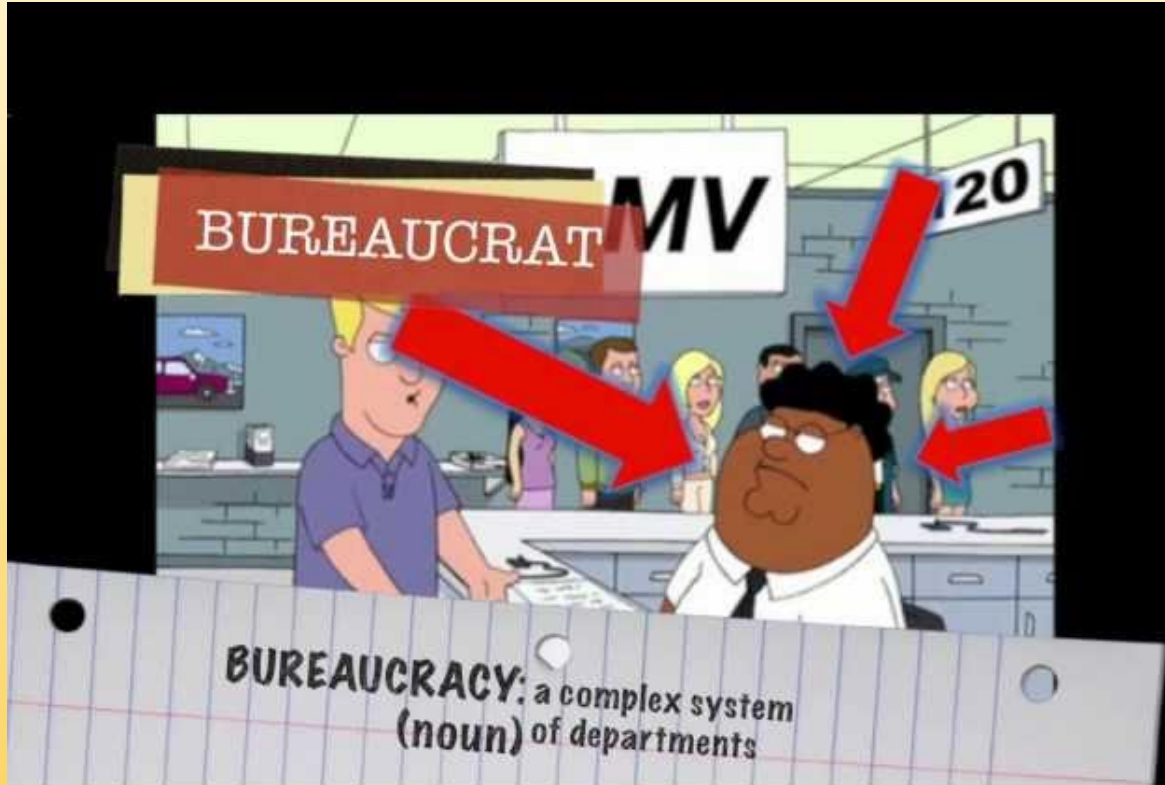
- 1) What is a basic definition for bureaucracy?
- 2) Why are some of the workers moving so fast?
- 3) Why does the video say the worker at the DMV is a typical bureaucrat?
- 4) Why did the McDonald's logo appear alongside criticism footage of the long lines waiting for a death certificate?



Warm Up: **Teacher Thoughts**

Answers:

- 1) A complex system of departments
- 2) I think they are just trying to impress their boss
- 3) He appears to be more focused on the rules/structure than truly helping the customer.
- 4) McDonald's is often criticized for mechanization, etc. but look who constantly gets tons of business despite criticisms.



Explain how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government. PMI-2.A

Part 1 Bureaucracy Lesson Contents:

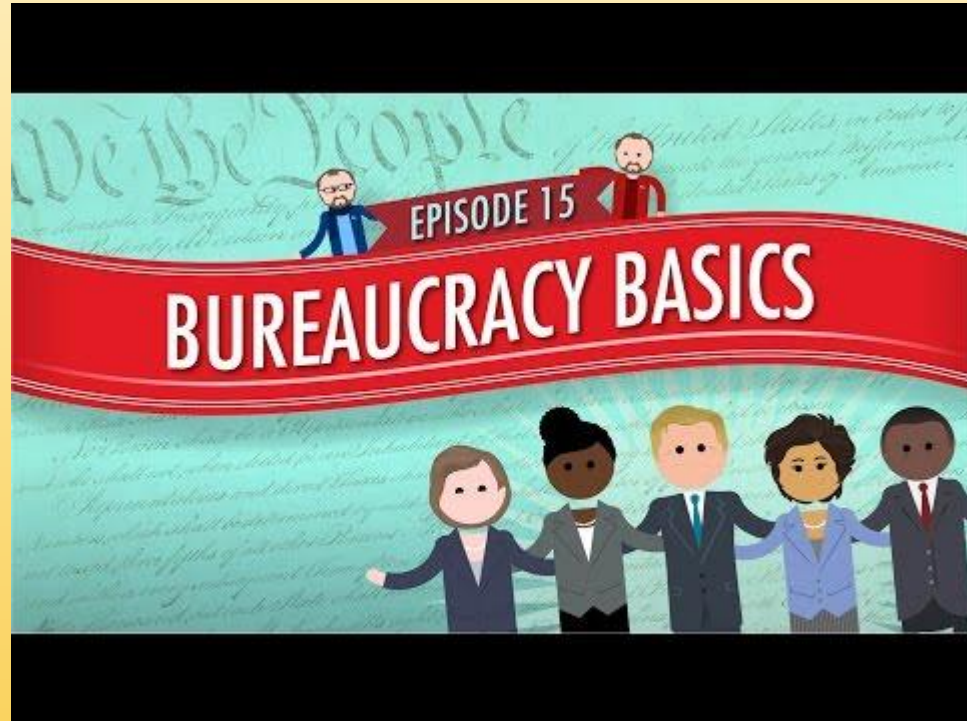
1. Summary Video of Bureaucracy Basics from Crash Course
2. Summary Video of Bureaucracy from Khan Academy
3. Myths and Realities about Bureaucracies Survey

Get a piece of paper and answer these questions from the video:

- 1) According to Crash Course, what is a bureaucracy?
- 2) What 3 things do they actually do?
- 3) Technically, which branch does bureaucracy fall under?
- 4) Most frustration with bureaucracy should be aimed at which level of government if citizens are upset with the DMV?

Lesson Activity

Click on this
Summary
video

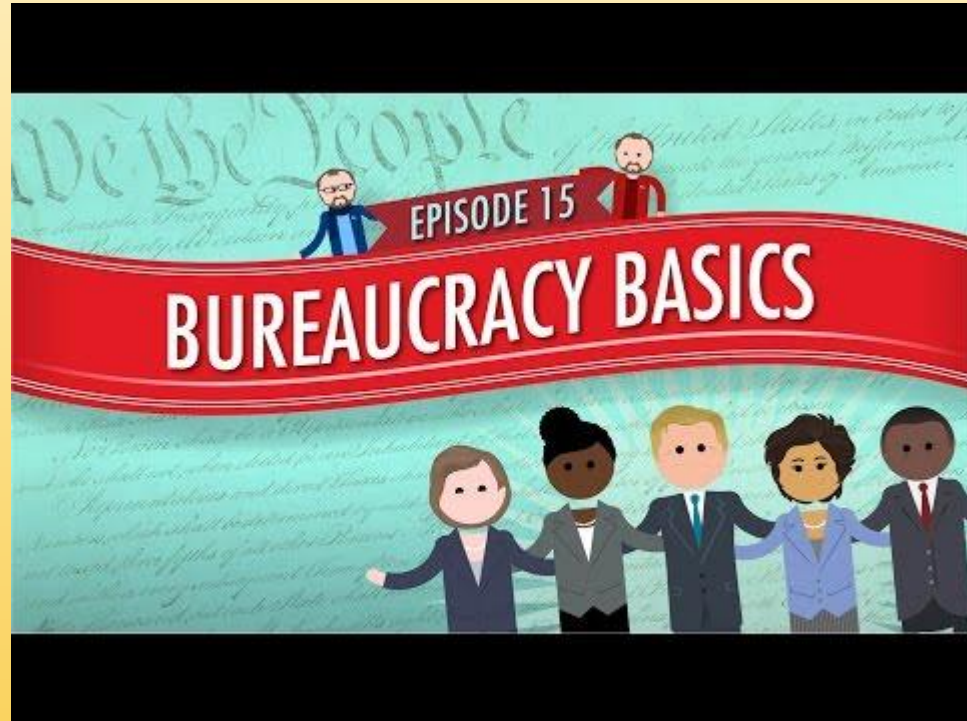


Answers:

- 1) Bureaucracy: A complex structure of offices, tasks, rules, and principles of organization that are employed by all large scale institutions to coordinate the work of their personnel
- 2) Bureaucracies:
 - a) Implement laws that Congress writes
 - b) Make and enforce their own rules
 - c) Settle disputes through administrative adjudication
- 3) Branch Bureaucracy is Under: Executive but it is so much bigger than all others
- 4) DMV frustration aimed at? State bureaucracies, not Federal

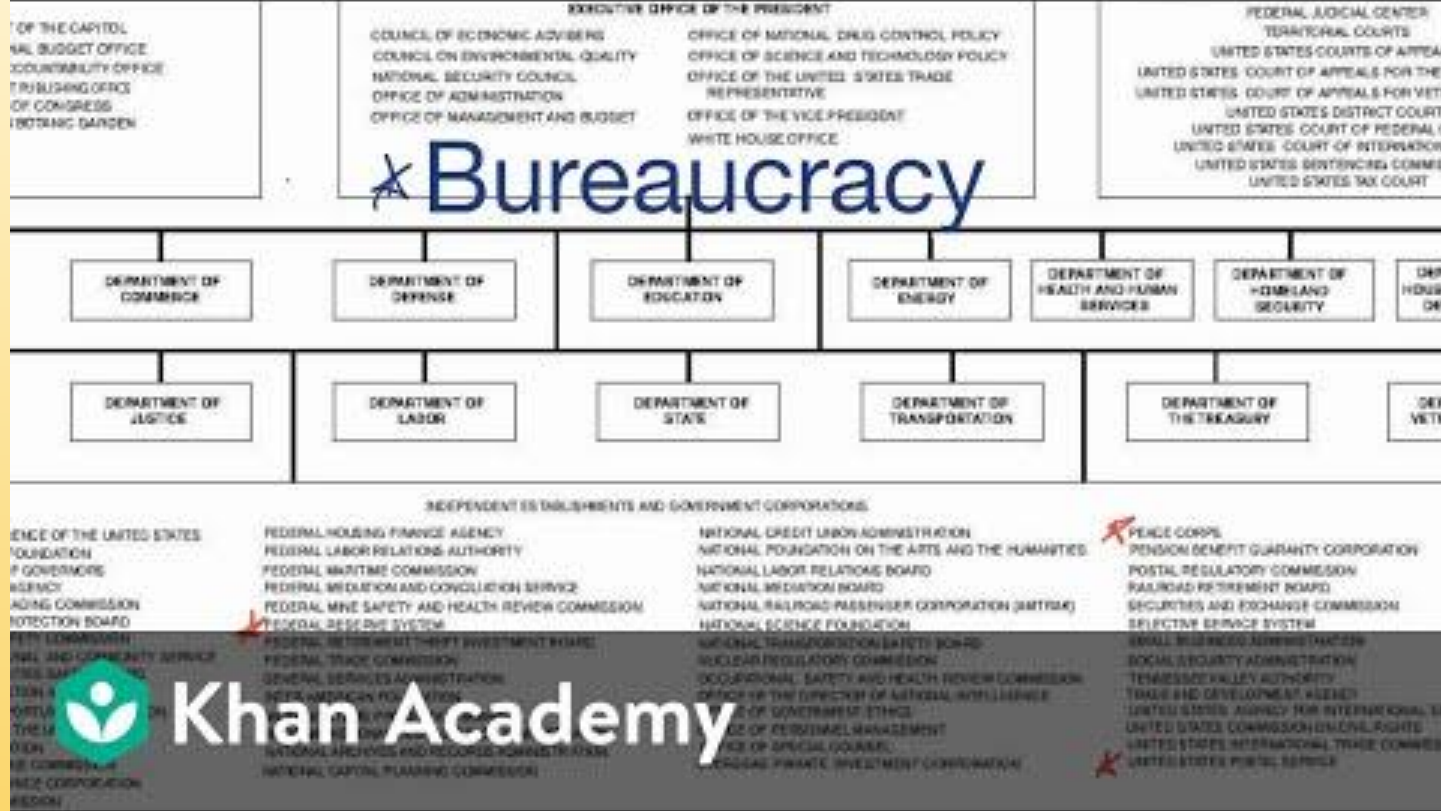
Lesson Activity

Click on this
Summary
video



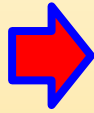
Click on this Summary video

Khan Academy Video: Introducing Bureaucracy



Khan Academy

Write me
down. I'm
important!



Important Vocabulary

| Term | Definition |
|----------------------|--|
| bureaucracy | An administrative group of nonelected officials charged with implementing policies created by the other branches of government. |
| civil service | The permanent, professional branches of government administration. The civil service is nonpartisan and its employees are hired and promoted based on merit rather than patronage. |
| iron triangle | A longstanding, mutually-beneficial relationship between an interest group, congressional committee, and bureaucratic agency devoted to similar issues. For example, the American Association of Retired Persons, the Congressional Subcommittee on Aging, and the Social Security Administration all work closely on issues related to seniors. |
| issue network | A group of individuals, public officials, and interest groups that form around a particular issue, usually a proposed public policy that they wish to support or defeat. |
| merit system | In the federal bureaucracy, the practice of hiring and promoting individuals based on their qualifications and job performance. |
| patronage | In the federal bureaucracy, the practice of hiring and promoting individuals based on their political support for a party or candidate rather than on their merit. Also called the spoils system. |

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

1. Americans dislike
bureaucrats

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

1. Americans dislike bureaucrats

Myth. They may not like bureaucracies, but they like individual bureaucrats they come into contact with

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

2. Bureaucracies are
growing bigger each
year

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

2. Bureaucracies are growing bigger each year

Half-true. State and local governments have doubled since 1965, but no rise in federal

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

3. Most federal bureaucrats work in Washington D.C.

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

3. Most federal bureaucrats work in Washington D.C.

Myth. Less than $\frac{1}{5}$ work in D.C. in reality.

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

4. Bureaucracies are ineffective, inefficient, and always mired in red tape (pointless hoops)

Bureaucracy Intro: Myth or Reality?

4. Bureaucracies are ineffective, inefficient, and always mired in red tape

Myth. It's a simple way of organizing people to implement policy.

They are similar to referees: all the blame, no credit (only notice them when they screw up)

Social Studies Virtual Learning

AP US Gov & Politics

**Part 2: Bureaucratic Discretion for
Rule-making & Policy Implementation**

April 20, 2020

AP US Gov & Politics

Lesson #30: April 20th, 2020

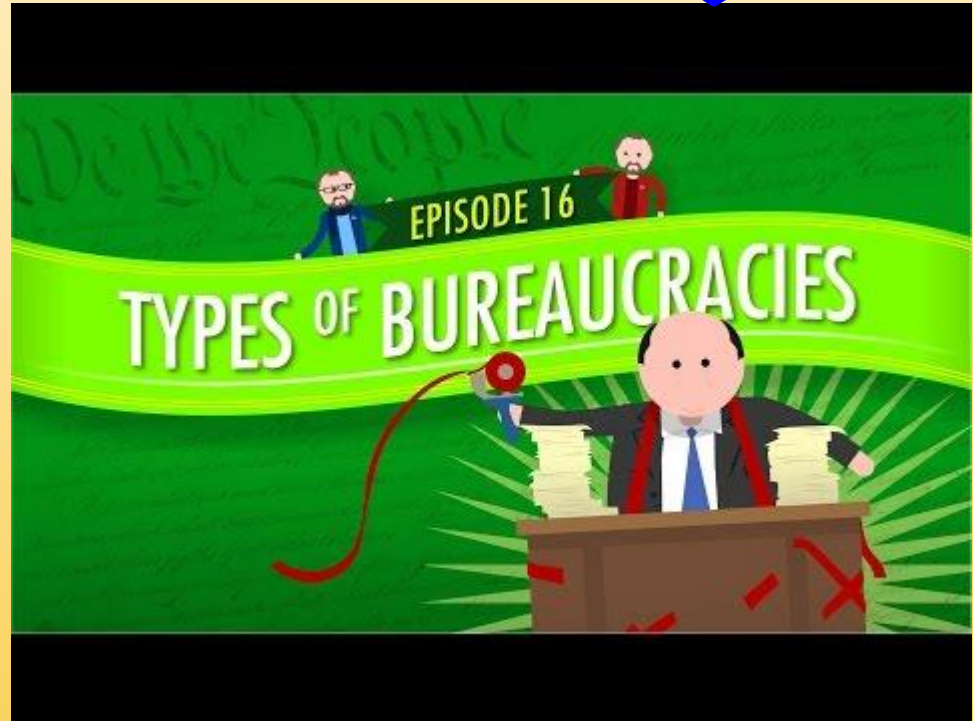
Learning Target (PMI-2.B) : Explain how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation.

Get a piece of paper and answer these questions from the video:

- 1) Which 3 Executive Departments (Bureaucracies) do we hear about most?
- 2) Which Department does the FBI fall under? And the FDA falls under which?
- 3) CIA and NASA are considered what?
- 4) Name one example of a Independent Regulatory Agency.
- 5) Amtrak and the USPS are considered what?

Warm Up

Click on this
Summary
video



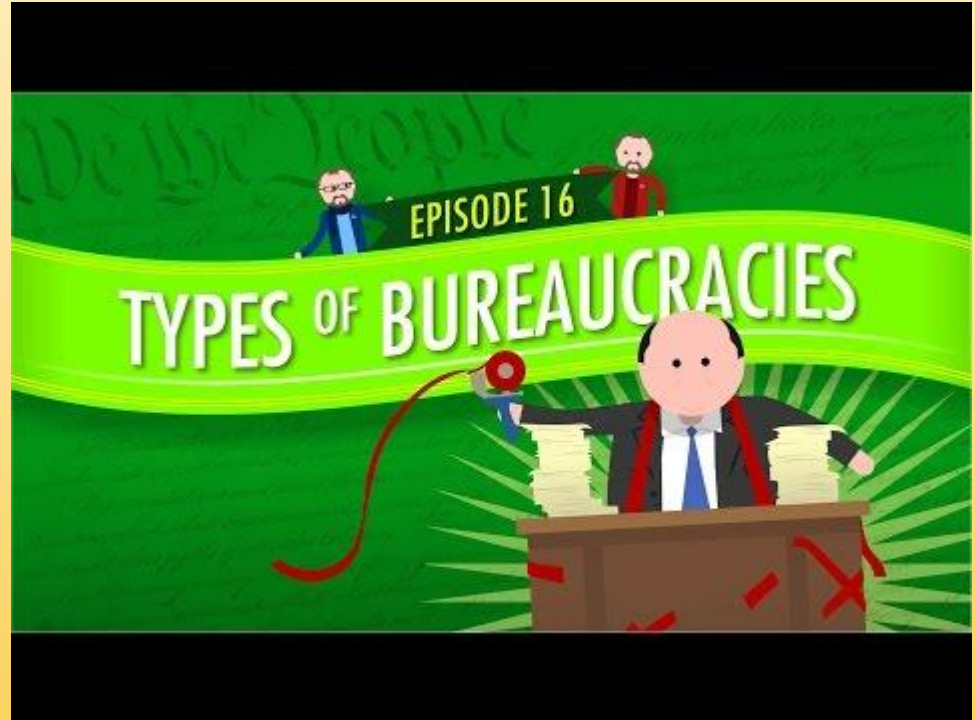
Get a piece of paper and answer these questions from the video:

- 1) **Defense, Treasury, or State** (insert Hamilton joke about Treasury or State!)
- 2) FBI = **Department of Justice**

FDA = **Department of Health and Human Services**

- 3) CIA and NASA are considered **Independent Agencies**
- 4) **FCC, FTC, or SEC** all have rule-making authority and ability to fine you
- 5) **“Profit-making” Government Corporations**

Warm Up : **Teacher Thoughts**

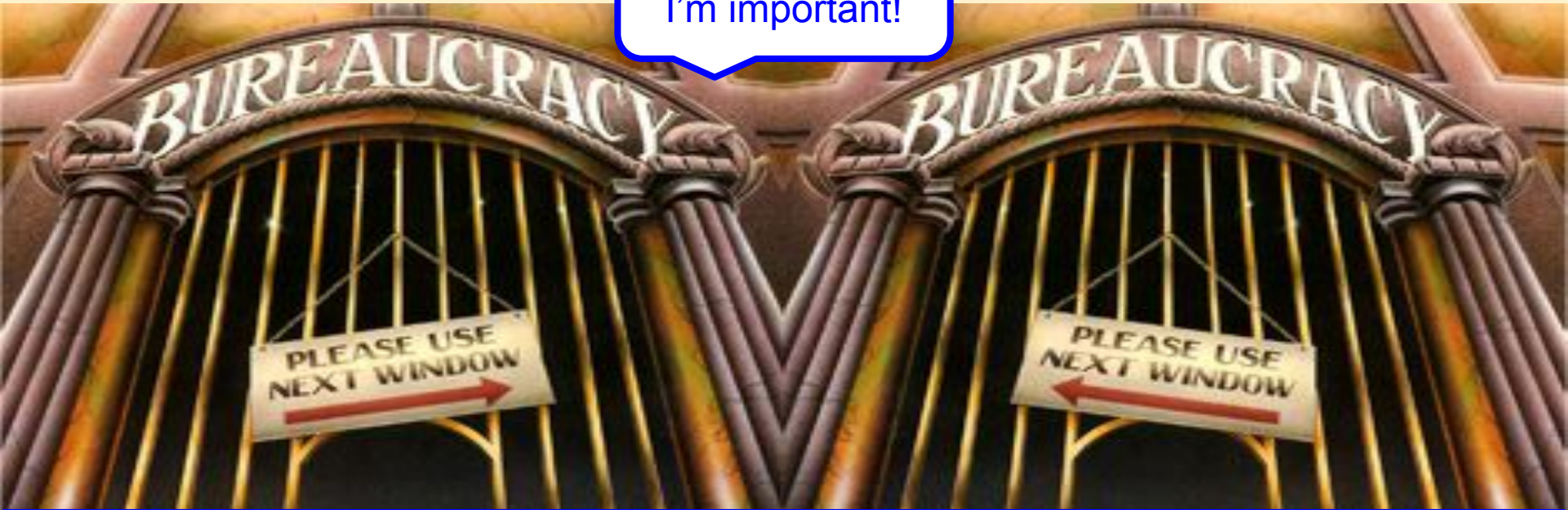


Part 2 Bureaucracy Lesson Contents:

1. Warm Up Video of Types of Bureaucracies from Crash Course
2. Important Notes over Bureaucracy operation
3. FRQ Question practice (Plus 1-2-3 Shoot)
4. Summary Video of Bureaucracy from Khan Academy
5. Practice Quiz with answer key also

Explain how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation. PMI-2.B

Write me down.
I'm important!



- Systematic way of ORGANIZING a complex and large ADMINISTRATIVE structure = **Bureaucracy**
- Carries out the day-to-day tasks
- Federal Government is biggest (2.6 million employees)



Key bureaucratic agencies to know

Agency

Description of responsibilities

Department of Education

Administering educational policies to the states and promoting research on education.

Department of Homeland Security

Protecting the United States from terrorist attacks, controlling borders, and minimizing damage from natural disasters.

Department of Transportation

Managing highways, rails, and air travel.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Promoting the welfare of armed services veterans and managing VA hospitals.

Environmental Protection Agency

Protecting human health and the environment by developing and enforcing regulations.

Federal Elections Commission

Administering and enforcing the federal campaign finance law.

Securities and Exchange Commission

Regulating the stock market and protecting investors from fraud.



Transportation
Security
Administration



VA U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, and the much larger base is submerged. A horizontal dashed white line marks the water level. The sky is blue with light clouds, and the water is a deep blue.

Political
Appointees

7,000 jobs
800 need
Senate
approval

2.6+
million

Civil
Service

Write me down.
I'm important!

**Bureaucrats = Political
Appointees** (Cabinet,
etc.) + **Civil Service
Workers** (Postal worker,
TSA agent, etc.)

Patronage



History & Growth of Patronage

- Spoils system
 - Practice of giving offices and government favors to political supporters and friends (who you know)
- Pendleton Act
 - Replaced spoils system with a MERIT SYSTEM as the basis for hiring and promotion
 - disappointed office-seeker assassinated Garfield (if only he'd been spoiled...bad joke I know!)
- Hatch Act
 - Prohibits Civil Service employees from engaging in political activities, running for office, or seeking political funding while on duty (national security people can't do it off duty, either)
 - POTUS (President) exempt

Write me down.
I'm important!



Keyword: 

Location: 

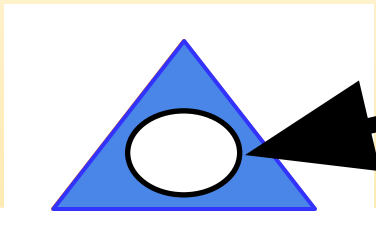
U.S. Citizens

Federal Employees 

[Search](#)

[Advanced Search >](#)

The **Civil Service** is intended to be a **Meritocracy** –
“it’s what you know, not who you know”
Opposite of Spoils system

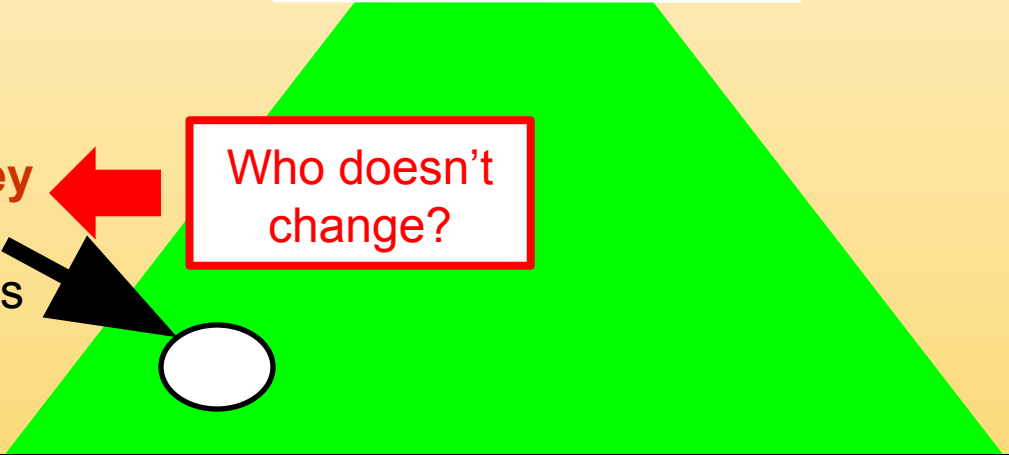


Rufus
Scrimgeour
Minister of Magic



Arthur Weasley
Department of
Muggle Artifacts

Who doesn't
change?



If you have ever been exposed to the Harry Potter series, one of the lead character's father, Arthur Weasley runs a department specializing in non-magic humans. He is the consistent worker despite the circumstances, the leaders of the Wizarding World government, or the competing visions of society. He **EARNED** his position!

Bureaucracy: How It Works

- **Hierarchical authority:** top has power over bottom
- **Job specialization:** defined roles and responsibilities, division of worker labor
- **Formal rules:** Establish regulations and procedures

EXAMPLE:

- Congress passes the **Clean Air Act**
 - it mandates that there is less pollution, but leaves out many of the specifics
- Congress enables the **EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)** to implement the Clean Air Act
 - EPA has more expertise and is devoted solely to the environment



Bureaucracy 1-2-3 Shoot FRQ Activity (6 pts)

The federal bureaucracy as part of the executive branch exercises substantial independence in implementing governmental policies and programs. Most workers in the federal bureaucracy are civil-service employees who are organized under a merit system.

- a) Describe one key characteristic of the merit system.
- b) For each of the following, describe one factor that contributes to bureaucratic independence.
 - i) the structure of the federal bureaucracy
 - ii) the complexity of public policy problems
- c) For each of the following explain one Constitutional provision that can be used to check the bureaucracy
 - i) Congress
 - ii) Courts
 - iii) Interest Groups
- d) **2010.2** → I'm linking the 1-2-3 Shoot Activity ([STUDENT](#)) ([TEACHER](#))

Click on Links for Exam
FRQ Practice

Bureaucracy 1-2-3 Shoot FRQ Activity

Part A (1 point)

→ One point is earned for a description of a characteristic of the merit system. Answers may include:

- Hiring or promotion based on merit / experience / qualifications
- Hiring based on testing

Bureaucracy 1-2-3 Shoot FRQ Activity

Part B (2 points)

→ One point is earned for each of two descriptions of factors contributing to bureaucratic independence. Answers may include:

- Structure of the bureaucracy
 - Large
 - Specialized units / expertise
 - Independent agencies / independent regulatory commissions
 - Tenure protections / hard to fire
 - Based on merit
- Complexity of public policy problems
 - Specialized units / expertise
 - Delegated authority: because Congress & POTUS can't handle everything, they delegate authority to the bureaucracy
 - Discretionary authority: because legislation lacks details, the bureaucracy can fill in the gaps

Bureaucracy 1-2-3 Shoot FRQ Activity

Part C (3 points)

→ One point is earned for each of three explanations of a constitutional provision that can check the bureaucracy. Answers may include:

- Congress
 - Appropriations: can reward or punish agency
 - Legislation: can pass legislation affecting the bureaucracy
 - Rejection of presidential appointments to the bureaucracy
 - Impeachment of executive officials
- Courts
 - Court rulings that limit bureaucratic practices
 - Judicial review: can declare bureaucratic actions unconstitutional
 - Injunctions against federal agencies
- Interest groups
 - Use of the 1st Amendment (lobbying, protests, media usage, speech)
 - Litigation

Discretionary & Rule-making Authority to...

- Dept of Homeland Security
- Dept of Transportation
- Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Dept of Education
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Elections Commission
- Securities and Exchange Commission



Bureaucracy Organization

Regulatory Agency **Example** = The FED

- POTUS appoints a governor (7 total) to the FED board every even-numbered year on January 31 for a FOURTEEN year-long term

The FED Sets Monetary Policy

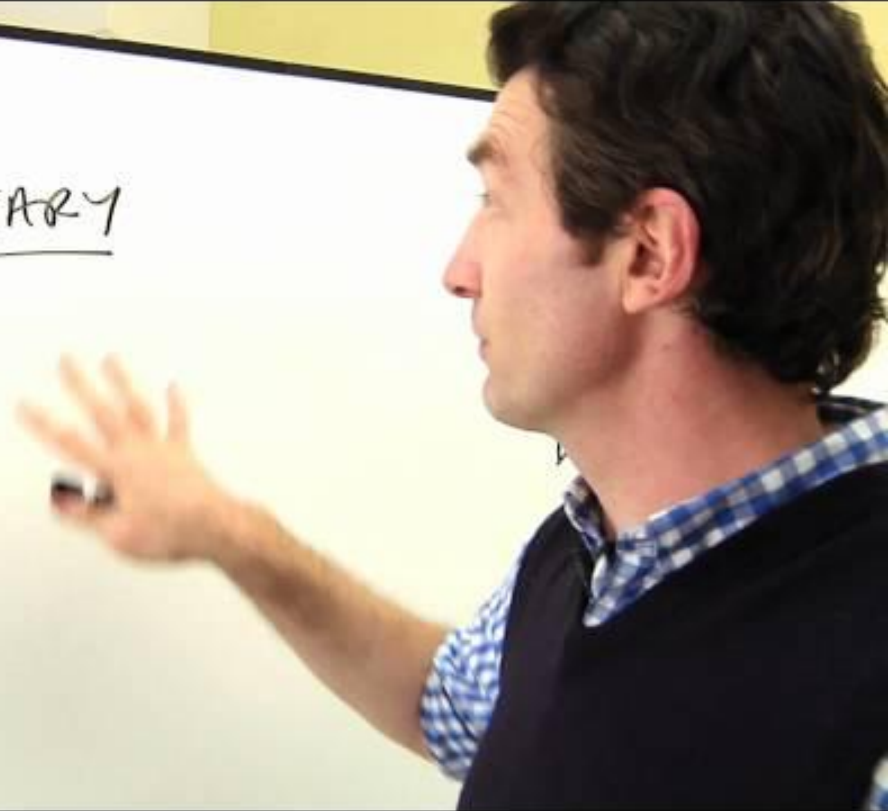
- When the Fed lowers the rate at which banks can borrow money, the economy heats up
 - It becomes “cheaper” to borrow money
- When the Fed raises the rate at which banks can borrow money, the economy cools down
 - It becomes more expensive to borrow money

Click on this
Summary
video about
FED
(bureaucracy)
working with
the branches

MONETARY

fed
REG
law
MRB
Chair Fed.

marketplace.org



Example for Home Buying

Your dream house is on the market, but can you afford it?
It's \$300,000!

FED
influences

Can you afford it on a 30 year loan?

Here is your
total
investment,
remembering
that your
original #
needed was
\$300,000

| 4% mortgage | 6% mortgage | 8% mortgage |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$1,400/month | \$1,800/month | \$2,200/month |
| total paid: \$515,500 | total paid: \$647,500 | total paid: \$792,500 |

Practice #1

Which of the following is likely to occur immediately as a result of new legislation regarding transition programs for veterans of the Afghanistan War?

- A) The Department of Veterans Affairs will use its authority to decide how to implement the law effectively.
- B) Military experts will make recommendations to Congress on how much money they should spend creating these programs.
- C) The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will meet with recipients to determine the effectiveness of the law.
- D) States will create several job training programs to help veterans find jobs as they transition out of the military.

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Practice #2

In 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law. The Department of Education was in charge of implementing the law.

Which of the following most likely occurred after Congress gave the Department of Education discretionary authority over the law?

- A) The Department of Education used its rulemaking authority to create regulations for states and school districts.
- B) The president issues a signing statement to clarify the ambiguous parts of the education law.
- C) States and school districts sent their plans on how to implement the law to the Department of Education.
- D) Academics and experts in education reviewed the Department of Education's plans for implementation.

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Practice #3

Bureaucratic discretionary authority is best defined as which of the following?

- A) the regulations issued by government agencies to implement public policy
- B) the ability of executive agencies to decide the literal interpretation of the law and to take courses of action
- C) the supervision of departments and agencies conducted by congressional committees
- D) the power of the President to create a law implemented by a bureaucratic agency without congressional approval

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Practice #4

Which of the following statements explains why Congress gives the federal bureaucracy discretionary authority to implement public policy?

- A) Bureaucrats are the only group in the federal government who can interact with interest groups and the public.
- B) Bureaucrats are solely responsible for making regulations after Congress passes legislation.
- C) Bureaucrats are experts and can make the best choices on how to implement policy.
- D) Bureaucrats are responsible for appropriating budgets after Congress passes legislation.

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Practice #5

Bureaucratic rulemaking is best defined as which of the following?

- A) the power to make legally binding standards that all persons under the agency's authority must follow
- B) the practice of hiring and promoting individuals based on their qualifications and job performance
- C) the authority to decide how to implement a law and decide Congress's intention when it passed the law
- D) the ability to settle debates between states and agencies on how to implement a law

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Practice #6

President Dwight Schrute has several positions to fill within the federal bureaucracy.

Which of the following is an example of filling a position based on merit?

- A) asking a high-level campaign fundraiser to serve as ambassador to Germany
- B) promoting the Deputy Attorney General to Attorney General after four years of strong service
- C) nominating a member of his political party as the secretary of energy after she supported him during the campaign
- D) choosing a member of the National Security Council that would appease members from the opposition party

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