

**Video Guides for this unit:** On a separate piece of paper title the page, number your answers, answer in complete sentences restating the question in your answer or rewriting the question.

### **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington**

1. What role does money play in the story?
2. What parts of this story are like the real process of lawmaking?
3. What parts of this story are fictional or unlikely to really happen?
4. What is a filibuster? How does it work?
5. What is this film trying to say about American democracy?
6. Over 60 years later, is corruption in government as big a problem as it seems to have been back then?
7. Do similar things happen today that are not called corruption because they're perfectly legal?
8. Was the movie itself, and especially the way it ends, as naïve as Jeff?
9. How would you describe Jeff? Are there lots of naïve and idealistic people like him around today?
10. Is patriotism a good thing?
11. Is Joe Paine a fundamentally bad person, or just weak?
12. What is Mr. Smith trying to accomplish?
13. What keeps him from his goal?
14. How does he change from the beginning of the movie?

### **The West Wing: The Stackhouse Filibuster**

1. What are the rules of a filibuster? List and explain.
2. Where did the name filibuster originate? What is its literal meaning?
3. Why was the Senator trying to filibuster the bill?
4. Why doesn't the President know the rules of the Senate?
5. What was the purpose of the bill that Senator Stackhouse was trying to attach a rider to?
6. What is a rider? What is the purpose of a rider?
7. Do you agree with the methods used by Senator Stackhouse to achieve his goal? Why/why not?

## **Projects for this unit:**

### **Congress**

1. On a piece of paper create a graphic organizer that lists the official compensation, privileges, duties and requirements of members of Congress (both houses).
2. In addition, list and describe the broad voting options in which each congressperson takes into consideration when entering office (there are four options)
3. List the 5 states with the most representation and the 5 states with the least representation.

### **California Court System Information Brochure**

Directions: With a partner, you will create an information brochure on the California court system

1. Brochures should include description of the superior courts including:
  - Family courts
  - Juvenile courts
  - Probate courts
  - Small claims courts
  - Traffic courts
2. Brochures should also include the courts of appeal including:
  - California supreme court
  - Selection process of judges.

The brochures will be graded on neatness, accuracy and thoroughness.