



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

THE FILIBUSTER

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Filibuster** (n.) - A political procedure in which one or more members of a legislative body prolong debate on proposed legislation so as to delay or entirely prevent a decision.
2. **Cloture** (n.) - A procedure for ending a debate and taking a vote with a legislative body.
3. **Simple Majority** (n.) - Fifty percent plus one of the full voting members.
4. **Super Majority** (n.) - A requirement for a proposal to gain a specified level or type of support which exceeds a simple majority in order to have effect.
5. **Nuclear Option** (n.) - A parliamentary procedure that allows the Senate to override a standing rule by a simple majority, rather than the two-thirds supermajority normally required to amend Senate rules.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- What is the filibuster?
- Where is the filibuster codified as a rule within the federal government?
- What are the goals and objectives of the filibuster rule?
- What are the main objections opponents to the filibuster cite as to why the filibuster should be eliminated or reformed?
- How has the history of the Senate impacted the filibuster?
- In your opinion, has the modern day use of the filibuster aligned with its original intentions? Explain
- In your opinion, is the filibuster a democracy-saving tool or an anti-democratic component to the function of the Senate?