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| ***ITP* Chapter 7** |

1. Have you ever contacted one of your representatives in the Texas House or Texas Senate to help you with an issue? What did they do for you? What do you think Texas legislators do in general?

**B E F O R E**

1. List the main headings in this chapter. What do you think this chapter covers? What questions do you have about the Texas legislator and your representatives?

**D U R I N G**

1. What surprised you about the legislators and what did not? Do you know what your legislators can do for you and how to contact them if you need them?

**A F T E R**

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| ***ITP* Section 7.1** |

1. What do you think the Texas legislatures and legislators spend most of their time doing?

**B E F O R E**

1. List the headings in this section. What can you learn about the job of legislators that you did not know before?

**D U R I N G**

1. Summarize the main roles of legislatures and legislators.

**A F T E R**

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| ***ITP* Section 7.2** |

1. Given that its main job is to pass laws that best serve the people, what resources or characteristics does a legislature need to be strong and effective?

**B E F O R E**

1. List the headings in this section. What can you learn about the characteristics of state legislatures and how Texas measures up?

**D U R I N G**

1. Outline why Texas is considered a weak legislature and explain the challenges that may present.

**A F T E R**

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| ***ITP* Section 7.3** |

1. Who leads Texas legislature and decides which bills legislators work on?

**B E F O R E**

1. List the headings in this section. What can you learn about the organization of the house and senate?

**D U R I N G**

1. Chart the structure of the legislature and the role of the leadership.

**A F T E R**

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| ***ITP* Section 7.4** |

1. What do you know about how a bill becomes a law in Congress? Do you think Texas follows a similar process?

**B E F O R E**

1. List the headings in this section. What can you learn about the stages of the legislative process?

**D U R I N G**

1. Trace the process a bill follows and the obstacles legislators must overcome to pass it into law.

**A F T E R**

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| ***ITP* Section 7.5** |

1. What do you think dominates the legislative process, cooperation, or conflict?

**B E F O R E**

1. List the headings in this section. What do they tell you about the challenges legislators face in working together?

**D U R I N G**

1. Tally the measures legislators use to speed up and slow down legislation. Which do you think have the greatest impact? Why?

**A F T E R**