

Term Limits



Constitutional Rights Foundation

Session Objective

- Participants will develop an appreciation for how citizens put government leaders in place by examining the complexity of term limits.



Term of Service



- Think about the words "term of service."
- What **words or ideas** come to your mind when you hear the words "term of service"?

Term of Service

- Please form **three groups** (ones, twos, threes)
- Please **review** the handout *AmeriCorps Provisions Regarding Term of Service*.

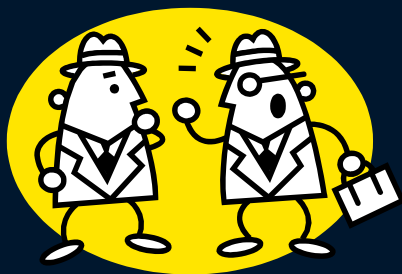


AmeriCorps Term of Service

- **Group One** should develop arguments supporting why a term of service for members is beneficial and to whom.
- **Group Two** should develop arguments against terms of service, why that could be better and, to whom.
- **Group Three** will review the provisions carefully and serve as judges for this "debate," ultimately deciding which group was more persuasive.
- You'll have **FIVE minutes** to prepare your arguments!



DEBATE!



Term Limits?

- Where else do we have term limits?



Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

- No person shall serve in the House of Representatives for more than **six two-year** terms.
- No person shall serve in the Senate for more than **two six-year** terms.
- Term counting will begin at the **first election after** the amendment has been ratified.



Professional Politicians?

- Please read the handout *Professional Politicians?*
- Think about the pros and cons of term limits for elected officials.



Term Limits for Elected Officials



- Get into groups of three once again.
- This time:
 - **Group One** will be members of Congress.
 - **Group Two** will be supporters of term limits.
 - **Group Three** will be opponents of term limits.

Term Limit Brainstorm

- Supporters and opponents should come up with your **best** arguments.
- Members of Congress should come up with **at least three** questions to ask each side.
- You have **ten minutes** to prepare!




Term Limit Triads

- Please reorganize yourselves so that there is **one** supporter, **one** opponent, and **one** member of Congress in each group.




Term Limit Triads




- Supporters present **first**.
- Opponents present **second**.
- Each side will have **two minutes**.
- **Members of Congress** can interrupt to ask questions—you may want to take notes.

Congressional Vote

- Members of Congress should regroup now and **discuss the pro/con arguments** with the other members.
- Please **vote** "YES" or "NO" on the Term Limits Amendment.
- **Majority RULES!**



Consent of the Governed



- What does the phrase "**consent of the governed**" mean?
- Do you think term limits will **strengthen or weaken** "consent of the governed"? Explain.



THANK YOU!

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