



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

AGE LIMITS & U.S. SENATOR ELIGIBILITY

VOCABULARY

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

1. **U.S. Senate** (n.) - One of the two houses of the legislature (Congress) of the United States, established in 1789 under the Constitution
2. **Age Limit** (n.) - An age under or over which something can or cannot be done
3. **Term Limit** (n.) - A legal restriction that limits the number of terms an officeholder may serve in a particular elected office
4. **17th Amendment** (n.) - An amendment to the U.S. Constitution that provided for the direct election of U.S. senators by the voters of the states
5. **Gerontocracy** (n.) - A state, society, or group governed by old people

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

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

- What are the eligibility requirements for becoming a United States Senator?
- How do the eligibility requirements for becoming a U.S. Senator differ from other federal elected officials such as President and House of Representatives Congressperson? Why do you think those differences exist?
- What does the U.S. Constitution say about the eligibility, requirements, and qualifications of the members of the U.S. Senate?
- What is the impact of the ruling in *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*?
- What is the 17th Amendment and what are the arguments for overturning it?
- What are the arguments for and against adding age limits on federal elected officials?
- In your opinion, should the United States have age limits (maximum ages) for elected officials? Explain.