1. When does Congress convene?
_________________________________________________________________________

2. Why are all members of the House considered representatives-elect on opening day?
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

3. Who presides during opening day in the House?
_________________________________________________________________________

4. Describe the actions of each of the following on opening day:
   a. the clerk of the House ________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________________
   b. the Speaker of the House _____________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________________
   c. the Dean of the House ______________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________________
   d. other members of the House __________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________________

5. Why is the election of the Speaker and the other officers of the House only a formality?
_________________________________________________________________________

6. What actions take place in the Senate on opening day? Why is opening day in the Senate fairly short and routine compared to the same day in the House?
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

7. What is the State of the Union message? To whom is it delivered?
_________________________________________________________________________
READING COMPREHENSION (continued)

Congress Organizes 3

8. Complete the chart below to compare and contrast the presiding officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Speaker of the House</th>
<th>President of the Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How chosen?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of body?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duties and powers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to debate?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to vote?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Which of the positions above is more powerful? ________________________

10. What is the role of the President pro tempore?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11. What is the purpose of the party caucuses?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

12. Describe the role of each of the following positions:
a. floor leader ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________
b. whips ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________
c. committee chairmen ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________

13. What is the seniority rule?
________________________________________________________________________