**III. The Senate**

1. Why the Senate?
* Preserves the fundamental right of minority rule
* Compromise is necessary in the Senate because the minority is given so much power
* **American Mythology**
1. Nebraska’s Senators

1)

2)

1. Senate at Work
* Each senator is equal and the voice of the minority is always heard
* Need 60 votes to end debate and vote in the Senate
* Senators represent their entire state
* Informal atmosphere provides maximum freedom of expression
* Allows unlimited debate time
1. Vice President’s Role
* Constitution makes the vice president the president of the Senate
* Not allowed to take part in Senate debates
* Only votes in an event of a tie
* Modern vice presidents spend little time in the Senate
* Not viewed as being part of the Senate
1. Pro Tem
* **President Pro Tempore –**
* Always a member of the majority party
1. Senate Floor Leaders
* Majority and minority leaders are also part of the Senate
* Not as important as the majority and minority members of the House
* Why not?
1. Filibuster
* **Filibuster –**
* Delays bringing the bill to a vote
* Must stand without leaning on anything
* Usually the threat of a filibuster will defeat a bill
* **Cloture –**
* An official way to tell a member to “shut up”
* Requires 3/5th (60 senators)
* Why wouldn’t members of the Senate want to vote for cloture?
1. Additional Senate Roles
* Has the power to approve executive nominations
* Has the power to approve treaties written by the President