How Congress Really Works

**Hamilton, *How Congress Works***

**Kaiser*, Act of Congress***

In this essay, your task is to contrast how Congress really works with the popular view of Congress as presented below. To what extent is the popular view right and wrong? What’s the right way to think about Congress? There is no single best response. Instead the goal is to present a perspective on how Congress really works that is consistent with what is presented in the readings.

To do this you need to draw on what you have learned from reading the Hamilton and Kaiser books. Be sure to cite specific examples from the readings (esp. Kaiser) to support your observations (but bear in mind that we are ultimately trying to confirm you have absorbed the broader lessons).

The essay is limited to two double spaced pages (12 pt font), not including bibliography. It should include an introductory section, the main body and a concluding section (see link below).

<http://depts.washington.edu/pswrite/Handouts/BasicPaperOrganization.pdf>

**The popular view of Congress.**

* Representing constituents is easy
* Members of Congress make the laws
* Lawmaking happens on the floors of the House and Senate
* Legislators can’t be trusted. They care about the special interests more than they care about their constituents.
* Legislators are incompetent. They spend all of their time bickering rather than doing what constituents want

God luck! Be sure to proofread (twice?)