

2.15 Policy and the Branches of Government



**ESSENTIALS**

Formal and informal powers of Congress, the president, and the courts over the bureaucracy are used to maintain accountability.

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon? [Write your response as a thesis using a “because” statement]
  
2. How important is government transparency? Who is best able to hold our government accountable?

Investigate how our three (3) branches of government both formally and informally hold our federal bureaucracy accountable. Complete the chart below:

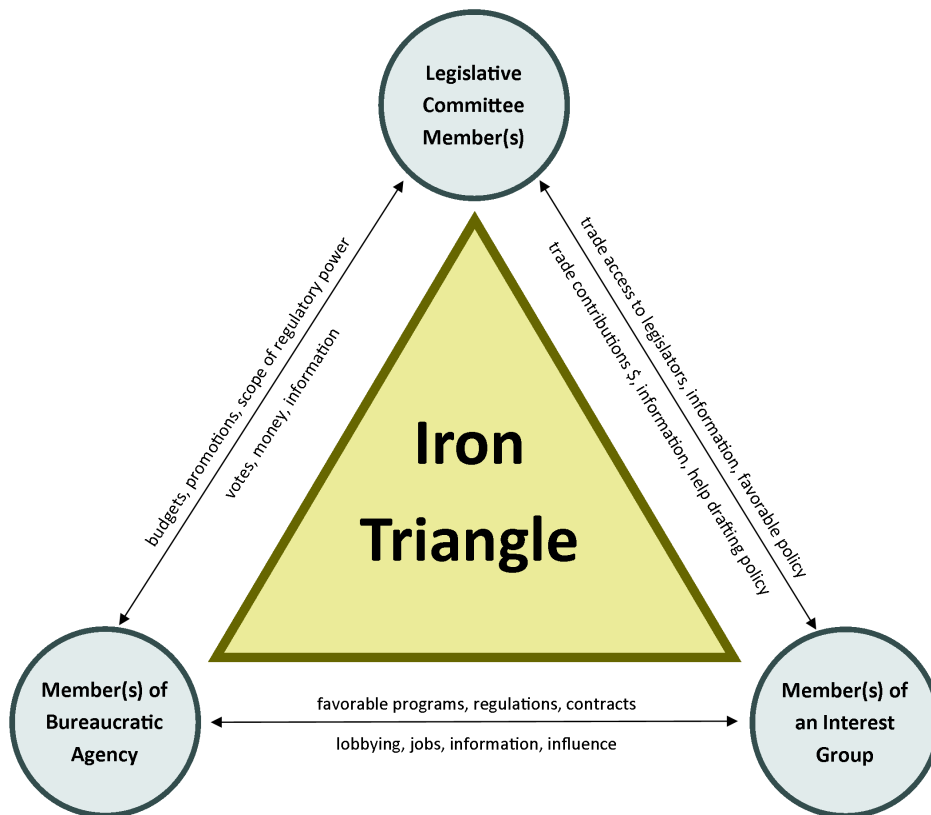
CONGRESS	PRESIDENT	SUPREME COURT
Example of formal oversight of bureaucracy.	Example of formal oversight of bureaucracy.	Example of formal oversight of bureaucracy.
Example of informal oversight of bureaucracy.	Example of informal oversight of bureaucracy.	Example of informal oversight of bureaucracy.

Grade Congress' ability to hold our federal bureaucracy accountable. Explain.	Grade the President's ability to hold our federal bureaucracy accountable. Explain.	Grade the Supreme Court's ability to hold our federal bureaucracy accountable. Explain.
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Investigate the **Whistleblower Protection Act of 1789**. What was its intent? Has it been effective?

**Look for a federal agency that acts with little accountability. Explain.**

*The questions that follow refer to the info-graphic below:*



Use the info-graphic above to answer the questions.

- Identify the three (3) points of an iron triangle.
- Describe a similarity or difference in the functions of legislative committees and bureaucratic agencies, as illustrated in the information graphic, and draw a conclusion about that similarity or difference.
- Explain how the Supreme Court might provide judicial review over iron triangles.