

CRASH COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

EPISODE 16: TYPES OF BUREAUCRACIES

STUDENT QUESTIONS

A cabinet-level agency is also called an ----- department.

Each of the fifteen departments is headed by an official called a Secretary, except for the ----- Department, which is run by the Attorney General.

What three departments do people hear the most about?

The ----- is a sub-agency of the Department of Justice and the ----- is a sub-agency of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The CIA and NASA are both examples of ----- agencies.

What kind of authority do independent regulatory commissions like the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission have?

What are government corporations like the Postal Service and Amtrak supposed to do?

Some bureaucracies are intended to serve clients -- the citizens and residents of the nation. For example, the Department of Agriculture administers SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. What is the old name for this program?

Another function of agencies is to maintain the union. How does the IRS do this?

The Department of Justice maintains the union by prosecuting ----- crimes and protecting -----.

What do the CIA, NSA, and Department of Defense assist Americans with?

Since bureaucracies aren't mentioned in the Constitution, where does their power originally come from?

Once bureaucratic agencies exist, how do they make themselves even more powerful?

Why will the President, and especially Congress, often rely on bureaucrats to tell the how a policy will be implemented?

Extra Credit Questions / Discussion Prompts

- Studying the federal bureaucracy can be a lot like diving into alphabet soup. What are the full names of these departments, agencies, commissions or programs referenced in the episode?
 - FBI
 - FDA
 - CIA
 - NASA
 - FCC
 - FTC
 - SEC
 - CDC
 - NIH
 - HHS
 - SNAP
 - IRS
 - NSA
 - OSHA
 - SSA