

Viewing Guide Answer Key

Grappling with the Government's Place in Society with U.S. Senator for Nebraska, Ben Sasse

Directions: As you view the video, answer the following questions.

1. What state does Senator Sasse represent?

Nebraska

2. Who did Senator Sasse say hires and fires the legislature?

The people

3. According to Senator Sasse, what is the job of the senate?

They write/create the laws, oversee the executive, ratify treaties, and approve executive nominations. The senate is supposed to be the deliberative body.

4. What did Senator Sasse say is the challenge of having cameras in every room?

It prevents legislators from being deliberative and having productive discussions with each other.

5. What does Senator Sasse say committees were designed to do?

Develop expertise for the legislators that serve on them

6. What are two ways Senator Sasse states that the senate has evolved since the Founding?

- a. Immediacy of the media or information / unhealthy “media diet” of the public*
- b. Growth of the federal government has created a stronger executive branch and weaker legislature*

7. Why does Senator Sasse say that judges wear robes?

To cloak their personal policy preferences

8. Why does Senator Sasse think it is a problem for people to make being a legislator their career?

He thinks that working as a legislator for too long makes you more concerned about being reelected than doing the right thing or the hard thing.

9. What are the Senator’s touchstones for making decisions? Name at least three.

- a. Is the government permitted to do this*
- b. If it is permissible, can the private sector solve it?*
- c. Can it be solved at the state or local level?*
- d. Center issues on national security issues*
- e. Limited length of programs*

10. Senator Sasse stated that state and local governments are the _____ of Democracy.

Laboratories