

Please note for this discussion forum you will need to use Excel to assist with the calculations for your initial posting. If you do not have Excel installed on your PC that Office 365 (which includes Microsoft Excel) can be obtained free of charge using your national.edu E-mail account. If you are needing assistance with having Microsoft Excel installed onto your PC, please contact NAU Technical Support at 1-800-548-0602.

As part of this discussion, we will research the functionality of the **U.S. Senate Committee** and incorporate calculations from this week on counting techniques (combinations) as well as calculating probabilities from the data the student will collect.

Requirements:

1) Using the **United States Senate** website (<https://www.senate.gov/committees/index.htm>) you will research a specific senate committee based upon the **first letter of your last name**:

Last Name Begins With	Senate Committee Assigned for Discussion
A	Appropriations
B	Armed Services
C	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
D	Budget
E	Commerce, Science, and Transportation
F	Energy and Natural Resources
G	Environment and Public Works

H	Finance
I	Foreign Relations
J	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
K	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
L	Indian Affairs
M	Judiciary
N	Rules and Administration
O	Small Business and Entrepreneurship
P	Veterans' Affairs
Q	Appropriations
R	Armed Services
S	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
T	Budget
U	Commerce, Science, and Transportation

V	Energy and Natural Resources
W	Environment and Public Works
X	Finance
Y	Foreign Relations
Z	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

2) In an **introductory paragraph** - answer the following questions on your assigned Senate committee:

- Select your assigned committee (expand by hitting the “+” symbol on the web page) find out the **total number of committee members**.

Example: The selection of **Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry** would result in a total of **22 members** of this committee.

- Click on the **Committee Member List** link for your assigned committee. How many are **Majority Members** and how many are **Minority Members**?

Example: The selection of **Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry** would result in a total of **11 members in both the Majority Committee and Minority Committee**.

- Click on the link for your committee that you have been assigned to and research what this committee is responsible for doing in the U.S. Senate. Who is the current ranking Majority Member and who is the current ranking Minority Member? What sub-committees are part of the committee you are researching for this discussion forum posting?

Example (as of the time of this discussion forum creation): The selection of **Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry** would result in a total

of **11 members** in both the **Majority Committee** and **Minority Committee**. **Debbie Stabenow** is the **ranking majority member** and **John Boozman** is the **ranking minority leader**. The student would be using the web page of <http://www.agriculture.senate.gov/> to research the committee. The subcommittees of **Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry** are:

Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade
Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research

Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Local Food Systems, and Food Safety and Security

Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy

3) **Perform** the following counting technique calculation- From the total population of U.S. Senators, how many ways can your committee you have been assigned to be formed?

Example (as of the time of this discussion forum creation):

There are a total of **50 U.S. Senators**, **25 Senators** are **Republican** that are in the **Minority** and **25 Senators** are **Republican** that are in the **Majority** (You may assume **Bernie Sanders** for the calculations is in the **Majority** even though he is an **Independent**).

The **Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry** has **22 committee members**. **11 are in the majority** and **11 are in the minority**. The order in which you select the committee members is not important, hence, you will be choosing 11 of 25 from the majority and 11 out of the 25 from the minority and involves a **combination** calculation.

The student can use Microsoft Excel and key in the formula **=COMBIN(25, 11)*COMBIN(25,11)** resulting in **19,868,414,760,000** ways this committee could have been formed from the U.S. Senate.

4) In a **conclusion** paragraph – do some additional research (Google, etc.) on how a bill becomes law and the functionality of your committee you have been assigned assists with this process. What laws has your committee been working on recently?

Deliverables on your Initial Posting (All components must be completed to earn full credit on the initial posting):

- An **introduction paragraph** researching your assigned Senate Committee.
- A **body paragraph** showing the process/calculation used to determine your numbers of committee that could have been formed.
- A **conclusion paragraph** on functionality of bills becoming law and what your assigned committee does to help with this process.