

HONR269i

To the Moon and Back: The Apollo Program

Discussion Questions

Session 5: Congressional Reaction

The Congress and the executive have enumerated authorities, and other groups have enumerated rights. As a result, no one element of our society can actually make consequential decisions on its own. Rather, the process involves mutual influence. In this session we will examine how that process works.

1. List ways in which NASA did influence, or could have influenced, the Congress in the period between 1959 and 1965. Don't stick to the obvious – be creative. Are there any limits that should be imposed on what federal agencies can do to influence elected representatives?
2. List ways in which Congress did influence, or could have influenced, Congress in the same period. Again, don't limit yourselves to obvious steps like passing laws – be creative.
3. Now consider a parallel situation today. Design an influence campaign that Immigration and Customs Enforcement could use to obtain adequate resources to enforce immigration laws and policies. Note that this situation is very different from the early days of NASA because there is less consensus on what immigration policy should be, but it is not so very different from NASA's situation today. So this is not just a matter of translating your first answer to a different agency – different strategies might be needed.