

# Crash Course U.S. Government - Day 33

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1. What is a **recess appointment**? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is a **pro-forma session** and how does it prevent a congressional recess?

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3. What change did **the Nuclear Option** make to senate approval of presidential appointments?

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4. What is **judicial impeachment**? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Answers

1. The president can fill a vacant position temporarily while the Senate is on recess without having to go through the approval process. This appointment only lasts until the Senate is back in session.
2. A pro-forma session is a brief meeting held every fourth day to prevent the Senate from being considered in recess. Only two people, one Senator and a clerk, need to be present to conduct a pro-forma session. At each pro-forma session, the Senate adjourns for three days. Adjourning for four days or more would cause the Senate to be considered in recess.
3. The Nuclear Option reduced the number of Senators required to approve a presidential nomination from two-thirds to one half plus one.
4. Judicial impeachment is a process whereby a Supreme Court Justice can be impeached and removed from the bench, although historically this has never happened.