

“Government Shutdown Ends” – Educator Resource Guide

Background

This Daily News Story from PBS NewsHour Extra was created on October 17, 2013.

This update on the Government Shutdown helps students to understand how, after 16 days, a bill was passed that not only ends the shutdown, but has increased the government's debt limit.

Who: Congress passed a bill last night that would end the shutdown and allow the government to continue to spend money. Additionally President Obama signed the bill which took immediately. Government workers have been told to go back to work and furloughed employees will receive pay.

What: After 16 days of a government shutdown congress has passed the bill that ended the shutdown immediately and also allowed the government to continue spending. Further, the Affordable Health Care Act is no longer stalled and is set to start January 1st, 2014.

Where: In Washington, D.C. congress met last night and passed through a bill to end the shutdown.

When: Last night the shutdown ended immediately after the passage of a bill that restored the government and has temporarily allowed for the government to continue spending until February 7th, 2015.

Why: Pressure on the Republican Party to cooperate and end the standoff finally paid off and the GOP was forced to capitulate and pass through a bill to end the shutdown.

Warm Up Questions

1. The government shutdown is now over, what does this mean?
2. Who was effected by the shutdown and what does this mean for them now?

Discussion Questions

1. What happened to stop the shutdown?
2. What were the effects in the long and short term?
3. Who was specifically involved in ending the budget? What was their role?

Writing Prompt

Imagine that you are:

- 1) a government employee who was furloughed during the shutdown
- 2) a member of the Democratic Party
- 3) a member of the Republican Party
- 4) President Obama

Write a brief statement for each role that narrates their experience during the shutdown.

Other Related Materials

- PBS NewsHour Article: ["Congress Votes to Reopen Government, Raise Debt Ceiling"](#)
- PBS NewsHour Video Analysis: ["Senate nears end of standoff with bipartisan plan on spending and debt ceiling"](#)
- PBS NewsHour Blog: ["Five highlights of the bill to end the shutdown and fund the government"](#)