

PERTEVMUN'26

UNITED STATES SENATE Study Guide

Agenda Item:

The Impachment Trial of President Richard Nixon

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1. Letter from the Secretary General

ESTEEMED DELEGATES AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE PERTEVMUN FAMILY, AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL, IT IS MY GREAT HONOR AND PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF PERTEVMUN.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO OUR AMAZING ORGANIZATION TEAM AND ASTONISHING ACADEMIC TEAM FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND GREAT EFFORT. THANKS TO EVERYONE'S DETERMINATION AND COMMITMENT, WE PREPARED YOU 12 COMMITTEES FOR YOU, WHICH INCLUDE TWO GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES, SEVEN SPECIAL COMMITTEES, AND THREE CRISIS COMMITTEES. THE COMMON GROUND OF ALL OF THESE COMMITTEES IS TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO DEBATE OR ACT UPON EITHER HISTORICAL, CURRENT, OR FUTURISTIC ISSUES AND GLOBAL TOPICS TO BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES.

I HOPE FOR THE DURATION OF PERTEVMUN'26, ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR EXPERIENCES OF THEIR LIVES FILLED WITH TEAMWORK, NEW FRIENDSHIPS AND UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES.

#LIVEFORTHEAPPLAUSE

SINCERELY,

ELA KARABATI

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PERTEVMUN'26

2. Letter from the Board

Esteemed Participants,

As the Board of United States Senate, we are honored to take place in the 3rd edition of PERTEVMUN which takes place at 8, 9 and 10th of May and it is our biggest honor to welcome all participations to the conference, also hoping all delegates to accumulate lot of knowledge and beautiful memories from this conference.

We want to mention all of ouracademy team and to congratulate them for their efforts to make the conference better in academic way and accumulate a lot of knowledge for our participants. Without forgetting our organization team, we congratulate them for their big effort to make our participants to have fun and feel while doing the academical procedure of the conference.

Lastly we arehappily and honorably inform all participants about that we got closer to the PERTEVMUN'26. Furthermore we present our best wishes to all of the people that had spent their efforts and participated, we wish all the people that spent time on this conference to get what they deserved and also worth their time, have fun and achieve good academic successions. We want to end our letter with wishing all the academy and organization team to worth their effort that they spent in PERTEVMUN'26 and wish everyone to leave the conference with lot of memories and lotof smiles.

Best Regards,

Board of US SENATE

3. Introduction to the Committee

The United States has a ruling system named "Congress". In many democratic countries there is one council that rules the nation. Despite that, the United States has Congress, which separates in two councils named the Senate and House of Representatives. If a Bill, a solution paper which applies possible solutions about the agenda item or ongoing crisis, votes from the Senate; the House of Representatives should vote in favor to let the Bill pass. Also, same for other way, the Senate should vote in favor to make the Bill from the House of Representatives pass. Neither the Senator from the Senate nor representative from the House has authority over other, they both have rights on the Bill that is written by any side. The perspective that House is mostly about domestic policies of the United States and economical plans while considering citizens' situations and needs.

House of Representatives, brings the crisis to agenda and gives temporary solution ideas to the crisis. Some crises may grow bigger and cause bigger damages, so the House holds the government by giving temporary solutions for sustainable and permanent solutions. Representatives for each state are calculated according to the population of the state, meaning that more population equals more representatives for the state in the House. On the other hand, the senate is mostly about appointment to governmental places, foreign affairs and international agreements.

Despite the house of representatives; Senate gives permanent, strategical and sustainable solutions for the crisis ,that brought to agenda, to not appear in the future. However, Senate sometimes should have a part to solve the crisis temporarily. Each state has two senators to be represented in the Senate. With that way, despite the House,which focuses on what most people needs; it emphasizes equality for each state and gives equal rights to decide on solution.

The Senate has mainly two separated senator blocks: Republicans and Democrats Party. These blocks are generally separated in the ideas that they are defending. Each block must have president to make citizens vote for and to be president of United States. Also, there is one leader for each block that represents their block, gives the opening speeches and leads their block and maintains the coordination. In the current time, the president Nixon is the president of Republican Party and the Democrat Party is the main opposition party. However, sometimes there could be independent senators that does not belong to any block and represents themselves alone, or they can attend to a block.

There is one more topic that both the Senate and the House of Representatives are responsible for: impeachment -the charge of a politician that decided by the House and may punish the impeached politician with leaving the place that they have been ruling- of politicians.

In impeachments, the House starts the investigation and if there is enough evidences to tell that the action has happened, the house impeaches the politician by what the politician was charged of and makes an article (Articles of Impeachments) about the impeachment.

Lastly informs the Senate with the Article of Impeachment and brings the impeachment to the agenda of the Senate. The Senate makes the last decision, if the politician is going to be impeached or not. At the time that this US Senate is taking place in, there were 50 states. Senators will be voting for the last decision of impeachment. Many conferences, simple majority (more votes than %50 percent) is enough for decision. In a tie, the President of the Senate makes the last decision. However, in some critical decisions such as international treaties, constitutional amendments and impeachments require supermajority ($\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ votes in favor / total votes percentage) to make the decision. Especially in this committee, senators will need supermajority to pass the final decision of impeachment.

4. Introduction to the Agenda

Richard Nixon, who were the US president by 20 January 1969 to 9 August 1974 and have had impeached by the House and resigned due to the pressure over him even from the party Republicans; which he was leading and representing as the president of them, had a CRP (Committee for the Re-election of the President) that supports, organizes actions and works for Nixon's favour. The favour can be anything, even unethical acts, even breaking in to a rival party's (Democrats) office. Nixon and his team CRP had a real unethical plan to change the election's fate and re-electing the current government again and remaining his authority. Their plan was so simple and that also had some people saying it was too risky. However, Nixon was very sure that the plan will be applied by the members. In the day of June 17, 1972; five men got arrested by the police in the Watergate office, where the Democrat Party office was located.

The investigations have made and it turned out that the people were the members of Nixon's CRP. People were curious and Nixon was under big pressure that he made people thinking that he had a place in this action. In his explanation, he said that he will take care of the situation, also added that he did not know any details and did not order anything to his members. Investigations continued by under the Archibald Cox and election have passed, Nixon was the winner of the election, even though his plan fails. But as the investigations continued, it turned out that there had been a recording system in the White House (not in Watergate office) that records the speeches and meeting of Nixon. Cox, reported that to the court and applied for a subpoena to receive the recordings, in order to learn if Nixon made a speech exposing that the Watergate break in. However, Nixon refused to give the recordings to the court by using the executive privilege right of every president has. Also Nixon offered to down the subpoena. Obviously, Cox didn't cancel the subpoena and Nixon fired Cox. After that, new person hired for Cox: Leon Jaworski.

On March 1, 1974 a grand jury selected to check if the accusation and impeachment was accurate and valid. Furthermore, even jury accused 7 more Nixon's former aides and Jaworski applied for a new subpoena which was aiming the same, but only including "certain" recordings. Nixon handled the edited transcripts to continue hiding it. The court finally made a decision for Nixon to release all the recordings by May 31st. The court had trouble because of executive privilege, so the court decided to order Nixon for the last time to handle the recordings to the court.

Lastly; both the pressures from the justice -ordering Nixon to release the recordings and to be judged by the Senate- and social pressures made Nixon have a hard time to remain his authority over the United States. As the result of these pressures, Nixon finally made an

explanation and speech that Nixon's final decisions, which is the first and only decision have ever been made in the whole United States history: resignation of himself, the president.

5. Historical Background

Vietnam War And Protests

The Vietnam War was one of the biggest and the most important wars for the United States history. The war was all about to either spread the communism to Vietnam or the opposite, preventing the spread of communism to the Vietnam. There were lot of civilians dying in the war area and threatening their lifes. So, thats when things turned for US against. People gig not want a war or preventing the spread of communism, of course they do but it was going too far. As result, university students and some scholar scientist were protesting in their universities, while a lot of people were protesting in the streets. Also during protests, there were students dying to the stray bullets, because of the intervention teams' faults. Nixon was aware of that and applied the plan "Vietnamization" which stands for to return the US army back honorably and to prevent these protests.

Relations With China

Nixon's strategy was obvious, he will be trying to end the Cold War by building new relations and making new agreements against communism, mostly based on targeting Soviet union.. China was one of them, even though their strong support to the Northern Vietnam, they were still seeing the United States as the first place country that can face against the Soviet Union. Thats the reason for Nixon to choose China as supporter. Nixon was aiming to reduce the effects of Cold War and nuclear disarmament.

Relations with Soviet Union

Nixon was also trying to keep the relations with the least tension possible and to prevent having a stronger enemy than themselves. Nixon also made some treaties and agreements to prevent the overarmament on nuclear and in general, as the result Nixon and the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed 2 agreements named Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. With that way they maintained Soviet "détente" politic (tension preventing politic used between United States and Soviet Union)

1973 Oil Crisis

After the time of Yom Kippur War and the United States' behaviour on the war caused the OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) participants limited the oil sales to some Western countries and the United States and caused the countries to have high oil prices and fuel shortages.

6. Timeline of Events

1968–1972 – Nixon is President

Nixon becomes president and wins re-election in 1972.

June 17, 1972 – Watergate Break-In

Five men are caught breaking into the Democratic Party office in the Watergate building. They are linked to Nixon's campaign team.

August 1972 – Nixon Says “We Didn't Do It”

Nixon tells the public that the White House had nothing to do with the break-in.

January 1973 – The Burglars Are Put on Trial

The burglars are found guilty. The judge believes more people were involved.

February 7, 1973 – Senate Starts an Investigation

The U.S. Senate creates a special committee to investigate Watergate.

April 30, 1973 – Nixon's Top Aides Quit

Several of Nixon's closest helpers resign or are fired because of the scandal.

July 16, 1973 – Secret Tapes Discovered

A White House worker says Nixon recorded many of his conversations. These tapes become the most important evidence.

October 20, 1973 – Saturday Night Massacre

Nixon orders the firing of the special prosecutor who asked for the tapes. Two top officials refuse and quit. Another official finally fires him. The public becomes angry.

November 17, 1973 – “I Am Not a Crook”

Nixon goes on TV and says he is innocent.

April 30, 1974 – Edited Transcripts

Nixon gives Congress edited versions of the tapes, but they are incomplete.

May 9, 1974 – Impeachment Hearings Begin

The House Judiciary Committee starts official impeachment hearings against Nixon.

July 24, 1974 – Supreme Court Orders Nixon to Give the Tapes

The Court says Nixon must give the full tapes to investigators.

July 27–30, 1974 – Impeachment Articles Passed

The committee votes for three charges:

- Obstruction of justice (blocking the investigation)
- Abuse of power
- Contempt of Congress

Many Republicans also voted against Nixon.

August 5, 1974 – The “Smoking Gun” Tape

A tape comes out proving Nixon tried to cover up the crime just days after it happened.

August 7, 1974 – Republicans Tell Nixon to Resign

Republican leaders tell him that he will be removed if he doesn't quit.

August 8, 1974 – Nixon Announces He Will Resign

Nixon tells the nation he will resign the next day.

August 9, 1974 – Nixon Resigns

Nixon officially leaves office. Vice President Gerald Ford becomes president.

7. Major Actors Involved

Richard Nixon – U.S. President

- The main figure in the Watergate scandal.
- Tried to cover up the break-in and lied to investigators.
- Resigned before he could be impeached.

H. R. Haldeman – Chief of Staff

- Nixon's closest advisor.
- Helped plan and manage the cover-up.
- Resigned in April 1973.

John Ehrlichman – Domestic Policy Advisor

- Another top Nixon aide.
- Played a major role in the cover-up.
- Resigned in April 1973.

John Dean – White House Counsel

- Nixon's lawyer inside the White House.
- Became a key witness by telling Congress about the cover-up.

Alexander Butterfield – Deputy Assistant to the President

- Revealed the existence of Nixon's secret Oval Office recording system.
- His testimony changed the entire investigation.

Archibald Cox – Special Prosecutor

- Investigated Watergate independently.
- Demanded Nixon's tapes.
- Was fired during the "Saturday Night Massacre."

Elliot Richardson – Attorney General

- Refused Nixon's order to fire Cox.
- Resigned in protest.

William Ruckelshaus – Deputy Attorney General

- Also refused to fire Cox.
- Also resigned.

Robert Bork – Solicitor General

- Agreed to carry out Nixon's order to fire Cox after the two above resigned.

Gerald Ford – Vice President (later President)

- Became president after Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974.

Sam Ervin – Chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee

- Led the Senate investigation.
- Oversaw televised hearings that made Watergate public.

Senate Select Committee on Watergate

- The Senate body that ran the main congressional investigation.

House Judiciary Committee

- Reviewed evidence and approved the articles of impeachment.

8. Political Parties and Divisions

The Republican Party (Nixon's Party)

Republican Party

- This was President Nixon's party.
- At the beginning, most Republicans defended him and believed the scandal was small.
- As more evidence came out (especially the tapes), many Republicans slowly turned against Nixon.
- By August 1974, senior Republican leaders told Nixon he **no longer had their support** and should resign.

The Democratic Party

Democratic Party

- Democrats controlled Congress during the Watergate investigation.
- They pushed strongly for a full investigation and for impeachment.
- Most Democrats believed early on that Nixon had abused his power.

How the Parties Divided During the Crisis

Early Stage (1972–1973)

- Republicans mostly stood with Nixon.
- Democrats wanted investigations.
- The country was politically divided — many Americans did not yet understand the scale of the scandal.

Middle Stage (1973–1974)

- Televised Senate hearings changed public opinion.
- Some moderate Republicans started to distance themselves from Nixon.
- Democrats continued pushing for the tapes and more evidence.

Final Stage (Summer 1974)

This is when the real division inside the Republican Party happened.

- After the “Smoking Gun” tape showed Nixon ordering the cover-up, most Republicans **switched sides**.
- Many Republican senators and representatives said they would vote for impeachment.
- Three Articles of Impeachment passed the House Judiciary Committee with **bipartisan support** (members of both parties agreed).

9. Articles of Impeachment

In July 1974, the **House Judiciary Committee** approved **three Articles of Impeachment** against President Nixon. These were the official charges saying he had broken his duties as president.

Article I — Obstruction of Justice

Meaning: Nixon tried to **block the Watergate investigation**.

What he did:

- Told aides to hide evidence
- Tried to stop the FBI from investigating
- Encouraged witnesses to lie
- Paid hush money to keep people quiet
- Used the CIA to interfere with the FBI

Why it matters: A president must follow the law and cannot block justice.

Article II — Abuse of Power

Meaning: Nixon used the powers of the presidency in illegal and unethical ways.

Examples of abuse:

- Ordered illegal investigations on political opponents
- Used government agencies (FBI, CIA, IRS) for political purposes
- Created an “enemies list” and targeted private citizens
- Misused federal agencies to attack critics

Why it matters: The president cannot use government power for personal or political gain.

Article III — Contempt of Congress

Meaning: Nixon refused to obey Congress when they asked for evidence.

What he refused:

- Did not give Congress the full, unedited White House tapes
- Ignored subpoenas (official orders to provide documents)

Why it matters: The president must cooperate with Congress, especially in an investigation.

10. Impact on American Democracy

Stronger Limits on Presidential Power

Watergate proved that even the President must follow the law. Because of this, United States Congress passed new laws to make sure no president could abuse power again. Examples include:

- More rules on campaign money
- More rules on government investigations
- Better oversight of federal agencies

This made the government more balanced.

Rise of Oversight and Investigations

Watergate showed how important **checks and balances** are. Congress increased its power to:

- Watch the president
- Demand documents
- Investigate wrongdoing

Committees became stronger and more active.

Supreme Court Strengthened the Rule of Law

The U.S. **Supreme Court** ruled in *United States v. Nixon* that the president cannot hide evidence. This protected the idea that **no one is above the law**.

More Transparency From the Government

After Watergate, Americans demanded more honesty from leaders.

New rules required:

- Public reporting of campaign donations
- More open government records
- More transparency in political activities

This helped rebuild public trust.

Decline in Public Trust

Many Americans lost faith in the presidency and in government overall.

People became more critical of political leaders and less willing to trust them automatically.

This loss of trust is still felt today.

Stronger, More Independent Press

Watergate showed the power of investigative journalism.

Reporters became more active in:

- Examining politicians
- Exposing corruption
- Protecting the public's right to know

The press became a more important watchdog for democracy.

Bipartisanship Shown as Essential

Even Republicans eventually agreed that Nixon must go.

This showed that **justice must come before party loyalty** and that democracy works best when both parties defend the Constitution.

11. Key Issues for Debate

Did President Nixon abuse presidential power?

Richard Nixon

Senators must discuss whether Nixon used the powers of his office for **personal and political gain**, instead of for the country.

Is obstruction of justice enough to remove a president?

Obstruction includes:

- Hiding evidence
- Telling aides to lie
- Using agencies to block investigations

Senators debate whether this crime **meets the standard of impeachment**.

Should refusing Congress's subpoenas be an impeachable offense?

Nixon refused to give **Congress**

United States Congress the full tapes.

The debate: **Does ignoring Congress weaken democracy?**

How much power should the president have during crises?

Should a president be allowed more freedom to act secretly?

Or does that create space for abuse?

What is the proper balance between national security and honesty?

Nixon claimed releasing information could harm national security.
Senators debate whether this was true or a way to **hide wrongdoing**.

Should party loyalty matter in an impeachment trial?

The question is whether senators should:

- 1- Vote based on party allegiance
- 2- Vote based on evidence and the Constitution

This tests the strength of democratic values.

What is the role of the Supreme Court in limiting presidential power?**The Supreme Court**

Supreme Court of the United States ruled that Nixon must give up the tapes.
Senators debate how much authority the Court should have over the president.

Does the president's intent matter?

Was Nixon trying to protect national security, or was he trying to protect himself?
Intent is a major factor in judging guilt.

How should future presidents be prevented from abusing power?

Debaters consider:

- New laws
- Stronger oversight
- Limits on executive authority

This focuses on **preventing another Watergate**.

Will removing the president help or harm the country?

Senators must consider:

- National stability
- Public trust
- Political division
- The line of succession (Vice President Gerald Ford)

12. Key Terms

Watergate – break-in and scandal at the Democratic offices in the Watergate complex Watergate Complex

Impeachment – process of charging a president with wrongdoing

Article of Impeachment – the official written charge

Obstruction of Justice – blocking or interfering with an investigation

Abuse of Power – using presidential power in the wrong or illegal way

Contempt of Congress – refusing to follow Congress's orders

Subpoena – legal order to give evidence or testify

Cover-Up – trying to hide the truth about a crime

Executive Privilege – president's right to keep some conversations private

Special Prosecutor – independent lawyer investigating government crimes

Smoking Gun Tape – tape proving Nixon ordered the cover-up

Senate Trial – trial in the Senate to decide if the president should be removed

Bipartisan – both political parties agree

Checks and Balances – system that limits government power

Rule of Law – no one, not even the president, is above the law

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