Chapter 5 Outside Reading Review Questions
Article: Congressional Voting over Legislative Careers

1. What is the main point of the article?
2. What data does the author use in the analysis?
3. What is a roll call vote as it relates to the United States Congress?
4. The article says, “One event that may alter voting behavior is a change in constituency caused by redistricting, which can be viewed as an exogenous variation in constituency preferences.” If the change were not exogenous, what problem would that cause?
5. According to the article, why would junior legislators adjust their vote more often?
6. According to the article, why would junior legislators vote the party line relatively more often?
7. According to the article, why might junior legislators’ voting behavior depart from the party line over time?
8. With respect to committees, why might junior legislators vote the party line?
9. How do the Downs Model and the Learning Model differ with respect to their predictions about voting behavior after redistricting?
10. Why doesn’t redistricting affect senators?
11. The article finds that senior legislators are less likely to vote with the party, so who exactly is the party? Explain.
12. What do the results suggest with respect to changing constituency preferences for presidential candidates and legislators’ voting behavior?
13. In the House, what happens to variability as seniority increases? How does this result relate to the Learning Model?
14. In order to answer the question, “Do representatives adapt their voting to the preferences of their constituencies?” the paper says, “The coefficient on median income in Table 6, column 5, implies that when this (median income) increases by $1,000, the legislator’s ADA rating drops .7 points.
   a. According to the article, what does income have to do with changing constituency preferences?
   b. Explain what a drop in the ADA variable indicates about the voting of the legislator.