

a. What are some of the ways in which people have become senators, according to this article?

You can become a senator by hard work and being trustworthy, but there also many other ways. One lady seems to be getting a position by dint of her impressive-sounding last name, and one man is winning because the people like him (at least that is what the latest recount says). Roland Burris may yet be seated even though he was appointed by an arrested governor who seems to be swearing at his fellow democrats. One way you will not get through is just by having celebrity status. The other senators will not except you until they have learned if you are trustworthy and good at your job.

b. Why is the Senate selection process relevant to national discussion at this particular moment?

Because at the time of the election, a lot of new members of the senate were being voted in, and a few were being reelected.

c. To what does the author of this article compare the Senate? Do you agree or disagree with these comparisons?

He compares it to a reality show, as it has a cast of characters within it worthy of one. There are some who are obviously competent, and others who obviously aren't. I agree with this comparison, given the information the author has shown me.

d. What are the qualities that matter in the Senate, according to insiders?

Hard work, arriving every time, being helpful, and just looking smart for your first 2-3 years.

e. How would you describe the culture of the Senate, after reading this article?

The senate is definitely ranked according to seniority. The longer you are allowed to stay, the more competent you must be. Thus, the first 2-3 years when you must prove yourself to competent and trustworthy are really hard.