

**Centennial Honors College
Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day 2024**

ABSTRACT

Major: Political Science

Podium

Faculty Mentor(s): Jonathan Day

The evolution of congress, specific characteristics of their powers, and how it relates to minorities

Olansile Obasoyin

My name is Olansile Obasoyin, and my preferred name is Angel. I am a junior majoring in political science with a minor in legal studies. For my research paper for Pols 317, I will be presenting my research paper titled "THE EVOLUTION OF CONGRES, SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR POWERS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO MINORITIES." My focus for this research is what Congress was like at the time it started and what it is now. I would discuss the first-ever Congress, which included just white males, the number of members, how they were chosen, and how today it has evolved and come so far. I will talk about the powers of Congress, how it has evolved, and how it continues to evolve—the different parts of Congress and how members are elected. I will talk about the first members of a minority group that became a part of Congress. I will talk about the reaction of people when these members of minority groups joined Congress. I would discuss how, after this period of the first minorities in Congress, it was still hard for minorities to be accepted until later. I will talk about the influence of the different periods in history regarding Congress and how these events played a role in the acceptance of minorities in Congress. Overall, this paper and my presentation focus on the different stages of Congress's evolution, especially those related to minorities, gender, and race.