



## CrS Report for Congress Hearings in the U.S. Senate A Guide for Preparation and Procedure

By Richard C. Sachs

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 32 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Congressional hearings are the principal formal method by which committees collect and analyze information in the early stages of legislative policymaking. Whether confirmation hearings -- a procedure unique to the Senate -- legislative, oversight, investigative, or a combination of these, all hearings share common elements of preparation and conduct. Senate Rule XXVI sets forth many of the hearing regulations to which committees must conform, including the quorum requirement, advance submission of witness statements, the opportunity for minority party Senators to call witnesses of their choosing, and procedures for closing a hearing to the public. Senate committees, guided mainly by their chairmen, have broad discretion in how they hold a hearing, in part because they adopt their own rules of procedure. These rules may supplement Senate rules, but they can not contravene them. Committee customs and leadership style not embodied in rules also vary considerably among committees and influence hearing procedures. Committees plan extensively for hearings. Early planning activities commonly include collecting background information from sources within and outside the Senate, preparing a preliminary hearing memorandum for the chair and members discussing...



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