

Oversight and Investigations: Additional Resources

1. Project on Government Oversight (POGO) - "Congressional Oversight Investigations Primer"

<https://www.pogo.org/resources/congressional-oversight-investigations-primer>

This March 2024 comprehensive guide provides practical advice for conducting effective congressional investigations. To maximize resources, members of Congress and their staff should work together to formalize power-sharing between the majority and minority, including sharing investigative documents. This resource offers detailed tactical advice on investigation planning, evidence gathering, and managing the political dynamics.

2. Government Accountability Office - "Performance and Accountability Report, Fiscal Year 2024"

<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-900570>

This November 2024 report demonstrates the real-world impact of oversight work. GAO's work yielded \$67.5 billion in financial benefits for the federal government in FY 2024—a return of \$76 for every dollar invested. This resource provides concrete evidence of how effective oversight translates into measurable outcomes, supporting your course's emphasis on using findings to drive action and demonstrating the value proposition of rigorous oversight work.

3. Congressional Research Service - "Congressional Oversight Manual"

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/RL30240>

This is the definitive CRS guide to congressional oversight powers and procedures, providing the authoritative foundation for understanding oversight tools and processes. As the official manual used by congressional staff, it offers detailed explanations of the constitutional basis, legal authorities, and procedural requirements that underpin the oversight function.

4. Oversight.gov - "Welcome to Oversight.gov"

<https://www.oversight.gov/>

This is the central portal for Inspector General reports and investigations across the federal government. Search audits, investigations, evaluations, and special reviews from Offices of Inspectors General that are members of CIGIE providing access to the IG work that forms a crucial part of your course's coverage of key partners. This resource offers direct access to the oversight work happening across agencies and demonstrates how IGs serve as internal watchdogs supporting congressional oversight.

5. Holland & Knight - "Congressional Investigations in the 119th Congress"

<https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2024/12/congressional-investigations-in-the-119th-congress>

This December 2024 analysis examines current congressional investigation priorities and strategies. As the Jan. 3, 2025, start of the 119th Congress draws near, Holland & Knight looks at expectations for congressional investigations in a Republican-controlled Congress. This resource provides current context for understanding how partisan dynamics and political strategy influence oversight work.

6. GAO - "GAO Reports an Estimated \$162 billion in Improper Payments Across the Federal Government in Fiscal Year 2024"

<https://www.gao.gov/press-release/gao-reports-estimated-162-billion-improper-payments-across-federal-government-fiscal-year-2024>

This March 2025 report demonstrates ongoing oversight challenges and the scale of issues Congress must address. GAO today issued its report on federal agencies' improper payments estimates for fiscal year 2024, reporting that agencies identified \$162 billion in payment errors. This current example shows how oversight findings can identify systemic problems requiring congressional attention.

7. Inside Political Law - "Preparing Now for Expected Congressional Oversight: Newly Released Oversight Plans Signal Investigations of Private Parties"

<https://www.insidepoliticallaw.com/2025/03/11/preparing-now-for-expected-congressional-oversight-newly-released-oversight-plans-signal-investigations-of-private-parties/>

This March 2025 analysis examines how congressional oversight extends beyond federal agencies to private sector actors. Recently, three key investigative committees of the House of Representatives—the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Judiciary Committee have expanded their oversight scope. This resource helps explain the broader reach of congressional oversight powers and how investigations can target non-governmental entities, expanding beyond traditional agency oversight.