



Set in present-day Washington, D.C., *House of Cards* is the story of Frank “Francis” Underwood, a Democrat from South Carolina’s 5th congressional district and House Majority Whip who, after being passed over for appointment as Secretary of State, initiates an elaborate plan to get himself into a position of greater power, aided by his wife, Claire Underwood. The series deals primarily with themes of ruthless pragmatism, manipulation and power.

season 1 Chapter 3

Frank is forced to return to his hometown of Gaffney, South Carolina in the midst of negotiating the education bill's reforms to the teachers' unions when his main rival stirs trouble.

Head of AFT: Page 43, section 7. We'd like some clarification...

Man: Section 7 has to do with the evaluative measures by which...

Spinella: "Evaluative measures." What we're talking about here are performance standards.
Plain and simple.

Man 2: We can't have that. We **open** that **can of worms**...





Spinella: Gotta take it out, Frank.

Man 2: The Administration wants it in.

Spinella: Then we're all wasting our time.

Frank: Now, look, I can **cut down** the frequency of testing, but it's got to be a part of the overall...

Man 2: That's **the thin edge of** a 2-ton **wedge**. No way. Non-debatable.

Spinella: All right, hold on. There's no harm in hearing him out, right? Frank, what do you **have in mind**?

Frank: We adjust article 4. Hand me article 4. We go every three years instead of two...

Spinella: Frank, for us to even consider testing...

vocabulary

1. plain and simple

- absolutely; without further complication or elaboration

Ex: *She's a genius, plain and simple.*

2. open a can of worms

- to create a situation that will cause trouble

Ex: *Her plan will surely open a can of worms.*

3. cut down (verb)

- to decrease or reduce

Ex: *I need to cut down on shopping.*

4. the thin edge of the wedge

- the start of a harmful development

Ex: *Most of them see the shutdown of the factory the thin edge of the wedge.*

5. **have** (something) **in mind**

- to be thinking about something as a possibility

Ex: *Let's eat out. Where do you have in mind?*

Discussion Questions

1. Are you argumentative?
2. Do you still stand your ground even if it leads to trouble?
3. What will you do if someone tells you that you're just wasting your time on something that you think is significant?
4. Is it easy for you to adjust or adapt to changes?
5. Do you find it difficult to listen to or to accept others' opinions?