

US Government

Name _____ Per _____

Mock Senate Bill Assignment: 20 Points

Think about something you want to see become a law, or find a law that you think should be eliminated. The following pages will guide you through the steps of drafting your law. Use the checklist on the next page to track your progress. Start with at least five different ideas, and use at least three different sources, including something that isn't Wikipedia.

Visit the Senate's website to see actual bills under consideration. Try formatting yours in the same way.

https://www.senate.gov/legislative/active_leg_page.htm

Once you have finished drafting and editing your bill, share the document with Mr. Gumpert at gumpert_robert@asdk12.net. Your completed bill must be shared no later than 7:30 AM on October 22, 2018 to earn full credit. This packet is due in class on the same day.

On Thursday 10/18, we will hold a mock session of the US Senate. The President of the Senate, also referred to as The Chair, will call the Senate to order and ask if there are any motions to be presented. To present your bill, stand up at your seat and firmly state, "Mr. President." The Chair will acknowledge a speaker saying, "The Chair recognizes the Senator from [state]." Give the Senate a summary of your bill, starting with the preamble. If you have a question about a bill while another Senator is speaking, stand at your seat and ask, "Will the Senator yield for a question?"

Everyone who contributes meaningful dialogue during the proceeding gets extra credit.

So you are going to write a bill...

A bill is an idea that is written out in a logical, easy to use format. Your task is to pick an idea and write it in such a way that it can be submitted to the Student Congress and passed into law.

Step 1 – Make a list of things you would change.

Use page three of your packet to create a list of things you would change if you could.

Confer with Mr. Gumpert before proceeding.

Step 2 – Choose and research and idea

Choose an idea that you truly believe should be turned into law, but remember that your legislation must have federal jurisdiction. Look at news magazines, local and national newspapers, the evening news and public radio. The information you gather will help you write your bill and debate your issue. *(Stay away from obscure topics or subjects that are too complex to be addressed in a one-page document.)*

Step 3 – What does your law need?

Your idea will need help in order to become a law. Decide what you will need to turn your bill into a law and how it will be enforced. Do you need money, if so how much? How will your law be enforced? Do you need to create a governing or regulatory body?

Step 4 – Draft your bill

Use the format guide in this packet to draft your bill. Keep it simple and easy to understand. Double check for spelling and grammar. *(Make sure you hold on to your research in case you need to amend your bill.)*

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

What Would You Change if You Could?

Think about the things that are important to our society. What would you like to see changed? Think about social issues, our economy, public education and anything else the federal government can have an impact on. Make a list of your ideas:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Senate Bill Research

Topic to Research

Questions to answer

Source List

- 1 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

- 2 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

- 3 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

4 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

5 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

6 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

7 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

8 Title: _____
Source: _____
Author: _____
Date: _____

How to format your bill – use this as a guide

Committee: (Which committee will review your bill)

Principal Author: (your name)

Bill Number: (Will be assigned in the order they are submitted)

(Title)

Preamble: “Be it enacted by this Congress that” (Write your main idea. What do you want changed?)

Section 1: (If necessary explain your idea further.)

Subsection A: (You may need several sections and subsections to outline your idea fully.)

Section 2: (Explain how the law will be enforced – who will do it and what will the penalties be? You can use subsections to present these points clearly.)

Section 3: State how your legislation will be funded if you require public expenditure. Will you need additional tax dollars or a different allocation of funds.

Section 4: (State directly when the legislation will take effect and what current laws will be superseded by the proposed law.)
