

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative _____ from (State) _____
Introduced the following bill, which was referred to committee.

Bill # for House _____

To establish _____

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America , in
Congress assembled, that

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4

How to write a Bill

1. A bill is NOT a speech. You do not explain why people should support your bill. **Do not tell us why** – write only about the details in the bill. All of the **Why will go in your SPEECH!**

You explain what you want to do. That is all.

Put in the details of what you propose

Do not put in Money to carry it out - We assume we have the money

Put in penalties if they are needed - both jail time or fines

Put in who will "carry out" or execute the law or requirements

Put in when it will become effective [Usually 6-12 months from its passage
In Congress and signed by the President]

Put in any exceptions or special requirements or definitions

3. Bills must be about a "Federal" issue or Federal power. See Teachers if not sure.

Non Federal are laws that deal with drivers license, schools

voting regulations, hunting permits, zoning, marriage,

Do not write bills about these 'State or Local' areas..

Possible Federal Bills can be about:

Armed Forces, Aid to Nations, Budget for Federal Government,
National Parks, National regulatory agencies, NASA, Medicare,
Social Security, Endangered Animals, Amendments to Constitution,
Federal Crimes, Immigration, Currency/Coins, Aid to Education,
Food Stamps, Unemployment Payments, Foreign Affairs, Civil rights
(See teacher if not sure)

5. Use format provided. All lines numbered, for easy reference.

Use complete sentences in explaining the bill.

Do not try to sound like an attorney – write your bill in plain understandable English.

When in doubt – ask or E mail the teacher!

Ideas for Bills

Most students tell us they got their ideas from their families/friends.....But here are some other ways!

1. www.Thomas.gov:

Type in key words for bills in Congress today.

Example: abortion, amendment, immigration

Also click on Websites for Congressmen or Senators on www.senate.gov or www.house.gov

2. Political Parties – Use internet

National Republican Party

National Democratic Party

Green Political party

Tea Party

Libertarian Party

3. Lobby groups, News Organ., and Political Organizations (Examples)

Sierra Club
AFL&CIO
Fox News
ABC News
CNN News
USA Today

National Rifle Assoc.
National Chamber of Commerce
NBC News
CBS News
Nat Organ. of Women (NOW)

How to Write a Bill

1. **A Bill is NOT a speech.** Do not write reasons for your Bill in your Bill. **Put this in your Speech** for the Bill.
2. **Keep it simple.** Tell what you plan to do, how you plan to do it, any penalties for not doing it, when it should be done and who will carry it out.

You should use the following outline for 'most bills' that are not Constitutional amendments:

Non Amendment Bill Format

Short title of Bill –[The Bill Number will be given to you]

Section 1: Definitions (if needed)/Requirements

Specify what you propose in your bill. Include the Necessary parts and do not worry about costs.

This will mean we debate the merits of the bill and not the debt problem. We will address the debt problem in class during this year's history lessons.

Section 2: Who will carry out the law? Try to explain what

Part of the Federal Govt. or Dept. will carry out this bill.

Section 3: When will it become effective? Usually "within 6 to 10 months following passage by both houses of Congress and signed by the President."

Section 4: (if Needed) Penalties or fines for not carrying out the bill specifications. These should become more intense as the offenses increase (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc...)

3. Do not put the death penalty for wrongful animal testing!
Be reasonable in you fines and penalties.
4. Write down your **reasons for the bill to be put into a speech** to be read when the bill is introduced. Be sure to cover your reasons as well as address any criticisms you should expect from other legislators **IN YOUR SPEECH!**
5. Some bill examples will be shown to you. Some will be given to you. The **Web site THOMAS.gov** lists thousands of them for you to read, use and study. Be sure to not fully plagiarize any bills – but some copying is OK if you need to – just do not fully copy it!