

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Remember to register your attendance and complete session evaluations.

Session numbers are in your program.



Attendance



Online Handouts



Session Evaluations

Writing Legislation Representatives Want to Talk About



UIL SAC TJC 2022

About Your Presenter

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15 year coach of cross-examination debate, L.D. debate, and extemporaneous speaking

2022- coach of 3rd, 4th place state winners, and best presiding officer

What is U.I.L. Congress?

Congress is an individual contest in a large group setting. It models the legislative process of democracy, specifically, the United States Congress. Within this mock legislative assembly competition, contestants draft legislation (proposed laws and position statements) submitted to the tournament, and they research the docket of bills and resolutions dealing with real-world social and political policies prior to the contest to prepare their speeches. At the tournament, students caucus in committees, deliver formal discourse on the merits and disadvantages of each piece of legislation, and vote to pass or defeat the measures they have examined. Parliamentary procedure forms structure for the discourse, and students extemporaneously respond to others' arguments over the course of a session.



<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/congress>

Why Write Legislation?

- Legislation is not required
- Gives you an advantage in being able to speak
- Makes the contest personal (you are able to select the topic)



Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** focus on quality over quantity
- **Do** make sure it is federal in nature
- **Do** remember to proofread
- **Do** follow UIL's templates and submit in Word
- **Do** keep your legislation to one page
- **Do** look at actual proposed legislation in real congress (don't use something that has already passed)
- **Don't** plagiarize
- **Don't** suggest legislation that can't be debated on both sides
- **Don't** write legislation that can't be enacted by the USFG
- **Don't** forget you can write different legislation for state if your qualifiers so chose

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WHEN DEVELOPING LEGISLATION:

Debatability: Legislation with clear arguments on both sides generates solid debate and promotes an equal amount of speeches on both the affirmative and negative side.

Interest: Select an issue that not only engages critical thinking, but that also has a high level of interest on the part of students, scorers and parliamentarians.

Recency: Is the issue current? Develop legislation around a fresh topic that is not overly debated.

Jurisdiction: Can the United States Congress really do this? Has the correct governmental body been designated to enforce the legislation?

Clarity: Is the intent of the legislation clear? Legislation should be written concisely.

Unique: Is the legislation the original work of the student and the school? Guard against plagiarism. Schools should never submit legislation for UIL competition that was not authored by the school's students. Students may paraphrase from published sources but direct quotations are not allowed in legislation. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Coaches must affirm that the legislation submitted is original and a statement of confirmation must be included at the bottom of each legislation submitted for consideration. Refer to the UIL template that follows this discussion.

Tip: Brainstorm 5 points for affirmation and negation to test debatability

Don't forget to keep the judge and students interested



Know the difference between a bill and a resolution



A Bill to [Action Word] [article] [Object] to [Summarize the Solution Specifically]

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. State the new policy in a brief declarative sentence, or in as few sentences as possible.

SECTION 2. Define any ambiguous terms inherent in the first section.

SECTION 3. Name the government agency that will oversee the enforcement of the bill along with the specific enforcement mechanism.

A. Go into further details if necessary.

B. Go into further details if necessary.

SECTION 4. Indicate the implementation date/timeframe.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by _____ (school name).



A Bill to Enact Police Surveillance for all Law Enforcement Officers in the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government demands that body cameras be placed on
3 all police officers in the nation in order to hold these officers more
4 accountable for their actions.

5 **SECTION 2.** Body cameras should be defined as working devices that record both
6 video and audio accounts of what happens in the surroundings of a police
7 officer.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation will oversee the enforcement of this
9 bill.

10 A. A budget of \$800 per individual camera will be issued and law officers
11 will be required to wear them throughout their entire shift.

12 B. Once collected, raw footage captured must immediately be uploaded
13 to that particular law enforcement agency's website.

14 **SECTION 4.** The implementation of this bill will begin on January 1st, 2015.

15 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Out of date
(for example only)



A Resolution to [Action Word] [article] [Object] to [Summarize the Solution Specifically]

WHEREAS, State the current problem (this needs to be accomplished in one brief sentence); and

WHEREAS, Describe the scope of the problem cited in the first whereas clause (this clause needs to flow logically from the first) and the inherent need for a solution; and

WHEREAS, Explain the impact and harms perpetuated by the current problem (once again, the clause needs to flow in a logical sequence); and

WHEREAS, Use additional "whereas" clauses to elaborate rationale for the problem that needs to be solved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the UIL Congress here assembled make the following recommendation for solution (a call for action); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That (this is an **optional** additional recommendation; if not used, end the previous "resolved" clause with a period).

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by ____ (school name).



Your turn

In small groups, write a piece of legislation (bill or resolution) for a problem at the high school level. (Remember your real school legislation **must** be federal action. This is just for practice on completing the template.)

Don't forget to try the 5 point test (5 points to pass, and 5 points in favor of the legislation to fail)



For reference

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