



The **UIL Congress Contest** provides students the exciting opportunity to participate in a mock legislative congress modeled after the United States Congress.

SKILLS INVOLVED THAT MAKE THE CONGRESS CONTEST UNIQUE:

- Parliamentary procedure provides framework for discourse during the contest, teaching students the proper way to conduct meetings
- Speaking before the legislative body must follow parliamentary law
- Critical listening
- Note taking
- Problem Solving as students must create laws in order to solve problems
- Negotiating arts and mediation as they meet in caucuses
- Incorporating element of interpersonal communication as students seek to get their legislation passed successfully
- Learning how proper decorum during formal discussion is a necessity for success
- Increasing civility in discourse
- Writing skills – developing compelling arguments that are real-world
- Providing real-life exposure to Politics, Political Science, Persuasion, Public speaking, Assemblies
- Dealing with newsworthy issues and the current laws of our nation
- Increasing citizenship
- Developing respect for public service
- Cultivating desire to contribute to society
- Building leaders, providing an opportunity to run for Presiding Officer
- Student-driven contest as they author the legislation and set the docket
- Extremely cost-effective: research available via common resources, easily administered contest
- Contest draws from many curriculums, involving students from speech, debate, agricultural and FFA programs, government and social studies, among others



- If your school intends to participate in this year's contest, please go to the following link and enter the necessary information:
- For more information about the contest, please visit: *http://www.uiltexas.org/speech/congress*
- If you have any questions, please contact Jana Riggins at: 512-471-5883 or *jriggins@uiltexas.org*.