



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:**

- Using parliamentary procedure to conduct meetings properly.
- Following parliamentary law when speaking before the legislative body
- Critical listening
- Note taking
- Creating laws to solve problems
- Negotiating arts and mediation while meeting in caucuses
- Incorporating elements of interpersonal communication while working to get legislation passed
- Using proper decorum during formal discussion
- Increasing civility in discourse
- Improving writing skills by developing compelling, real-world arguments that are real-world
- Providing real-life exposure to politics, political science, persuasion, public speaking and assemblies
- Discussing newsworthy issues
- Debating current laws of our nation
- Increasing civic participation
- Developing respect for public service
- Cultivating a desire to contribute to society
- Building leaders by providing an opportunity to run for Presiding Officer
- Providing a student-driven contest as they author the legislation and set the docket
- Utilizing research available via common resources makes the contest extremely cost-effective
- Crossing curriculums, involving students from speech, debate, agricultural and FFA programs, government and social studies, among others