**Bill Creation and Analysis**

**Directions:** You need to identify one problem you would like to fix in our current system of government. This problem can relate to either the school or your community. You then need to write a bill about the problem. Think back to your political party project and select one of your issues you would like to fix.

**Part #1:** Your bill must include:

* **A clear description of the problem you are trying to solve**
* **A description of how this problem can be resolved**
* **A proposal for a specific law you think will solve the problem**
	+ Use the **“Instructions for Writing a Bill”** for more information.

Your bill will be sent to the President (Ms. Rogers) who will either approve or reject the bill. Remember, a good bill must be persuasive and convince people that your law is necessary in order to solve a problem!

Issue Selection- Select one or design your own.

* Raise drivers license requirements nationally to 18 years of age. A state that does not fulfill that requirement will lose all federal highway funding ($5 billion per year) until the state law is passed.
* Increase defense spending by a minimum of 15% per year for the next decade to fight terrorism.
* A constitutional amendment banning desecration of the US flag.

**Part #2:** On separate paper, explain how each of the following will enhance, or detract, from passage of your bill.

a**. Political party** - What party do you represent and is that in the majority or minority in the 114th Congress? Explain how the parties will respond to your legislation.

b. **Constituents**- Will they support passage of this legislation and why?

c. **Presidential support?** Will the President support this bill? Explain.

**Format of the Bill**: 1-2 pages (**example on “Instructions for Writing a Bill”**)

**Format of the Analysis**: ½- 1 page, ink or typed and labeled by section.

**References:**

http://www.senate.gov/

<http://www.house.gov/>

<http://congress.org/congressorg/issues/bills/>

<http://www.opencongress.org/>

<http://www.votetocracy.com/registration_success>

DUE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Bill and Analysis Rubric**

5 3 1

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Thesis explaining your legislation. Topic Sentence, 5+ sentences

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ A bill is adequately designed

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ House + Senate Committees are accurately selected.

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Political Party support is properly indicated.

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Constituents factor is identified and explained.

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Presidential support is explained.

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Spelling, syntax, semantics, grammar are used properly

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Deadline is met.

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Productivity during class time (10 pts)

**Total:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50 Total**

**Instructions for Writing A Bill**

**Your assignment is to draft a bill for mock congress. The bill must be appropriate for your committee. Your bill must contain the following 8 parts. A sample bill is located on the back. Please remember you are writing a national bill.**

* **A title that describes the subject of the bill**
* **Declaration of your name, state represented and membership in standing committee**

*Every law should discuss only one subject and that subject should be mentioned in the title. Make the title as concise as possible, but broad enough to clearly indicate the scope of the bill.*

**Be it enacted by the [SENATE] of the United States of America.**

Section 1. Definitions (1-2 sentences)

*In complete sentences, define any word or phrase used in your title that might be subject to confusion or result in unnecessary debate.*

Section 2. Purpose (3-5 sentences)

*The purpose section simply states concisely why you think the bill should be enacted.*

Section 3. Provisions (8 + Sentences)

*This clause is the most important part of your bill. In complete sentences explain exactly what you want to happen and how. What you say here should say the same thing as your title only in much greater detail. The bill should be written in the present tense. If you want to require something to happen, use the word "shall" [eg. no person shall water their lawn more than three times a week during a drought]. Try to anticipate questions that people might have after reading your bill and address those questions in this section.*

Section 4. Pork Barrel Spending/Earmarks (Only if you desire)

*This clause is where you as a Congressman or Congresswoman will use federal government money towards specific projects in order to help you win re-election. Remember, it doesn’t have to have ANY relation to your bill; you are looking out for your own private interests.*

Section 5. Penalty Clause (Not everyone will have one!)

*This clause is necessary only if your bill makes something illegal. If you are saying some behavior should be called a crime, you must specifically say if it will be considered a misdemeanor or felony. What penalties should people face if they commit the crime?*

Section 6. Appropriations Clause (Not everyone will have one!)

*This clause is necessary only if your bill requires the use of money. Indicate the amount of money to be spent and how that amount of money will be raised.*

Section 7. Enactment Clause (1-2 sentences)

*This clause tells when the bill will go into effect. Examples include: This bill will become effective 90 days after signature by the President.*

Section 8. Safety Clause. (It needs to be the EXACT words below)

**The legislature of the United States hereby finds, determines and declares that this ACT is necessary for the preservation of public health, peace and safety.**

**Sample Bill for Mock Congress**

Amber Rogers, Corner Canyon High School

Bill draft by Senator Amber Rogers

New York, Democrat

**Health, Education, Labor & Pensions** standing committee

Committee Action: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AN ACT TO: REQUIRE PASSAGE OF AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST FOR ALL PUBLIC MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRIOR TO PLACEMENT IN CLASSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

Be it enacted by the United States Senate

Section 1. Definitions “English language proficiency test” shall be defined as a test taken by students to

1. determine their proficiency in the spoken, written, and heard English language. “Public middle and high school
2. students” shall be defined as all students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) attending state-funded schools.
3. “Classes taught in English” shall be defined as all classes with over seventy-five (75) percent of instruction in
4. English, intended to be taken by students who are proficient in the English language.

Section 2. Purpose The placement of students who are unable to speak English proficiently into classes taught

1. in English put these students at an unnecessary disadvantage, and hinders the ability of other English-speaking
2. students in these classes to learn effectively. Requiring a proficiency test of all students would eliminate this
3. growing problem.

Section 3. Provisions At the same time sixth (6th) graders receive vision and hearing testing in public school,

1. all sixth (6th) graders will be required to take a very short and basic English language test. The test will be
2. developed by the Colorado Department of Education by way of subcommittee, using existing funding and
3. personnel. The Department of Education will also determine who may proctor the test. Students that pass the
4. test will never need to retake the test while still enrolled in Colorado public schools. New students to Colorado
5. public schools will be required to pass the test before placement in classes taught in English. Students who do
6. not pass the test will be required to enroll in “English as a Second Language” courses full time during the
7. school day until they are able to pass the test. Upon passage, students will be allowed to enroll in classes.

Section 4. Special Provisions. *This is where you will insert your “pork.”*

Section 5. Penalty Clause Any school officials allowing students who have not passed the proficiency test in

1. English to take classes taught in English shall be tried for failure to meet standards. The penalty shall be
2. determined by a judge not to exceed one (1) year in jail and five hundred (500) dollars in fines per student.

Section 6. Appropriations Clause The test and all necessary provisions for its administration will be provided

1. for under existing Department of Education funding, using existing personnel.

Section 7. Enactment Clause This bill will become effective one (1) year after the Department of Education

1. develops necessary tests and procedures, no later than the school year 2011-2012. The Department of
2. Education shall be required to begin work on the test immediately.

Section 8. Safety Clause The Senate of the United States hereby finds, determines and declares that this Act is

1. necessary for the preservation of public health, peace and safety.