

Name: _____

Date: _____

Everything is Political Worksheet 1

Directions: Use the library and internet to research the political issue that you have identified in class.

1. Issue Identification

a. **What is the problem or condition?**

b. **Who is affected by the problem or condition?**

c. **What is at stake if the problem or condition is not addressed?**

2. Analysis

a. **What are the contributing factors? What has contributed to the problem or condition?**

b. **How does current research describe the problem? How do experts describe the problem?**

3. Strategies

a. What strategies can be used to address the problem or condition? (List all that you can find.)

b. Which solution is the most feasible and why?

Everything is Political Worksheet 2

Directions: Now it's your turn to draft a piece of legislation. Using your research from WORKSHEET 1 and a blank sheet of lined paper, draft a bill in the format outlined below.

BILL FORMAT* STUDENT LEGISLATION

Sponsored by [Student(s) names]

Committee Action:

AN ACT TO [complete the title in all capital letters] Every law should embrace only one subject and that should be expressed 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 student model legislature of _____state_____

Section 1. Definitions In complete sentences, define any word or phrase used in your title which might be subject to confusion or result in unnecessary debate.

Section 2. Purpose The purpose section simply states concisely why you think the bill should be enacted. The purpose section is optional.

Section 3. Provisions 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. Penalty Clause This clause is necessary only if your bill makes something illegal. If you are designating some behavior a crime, you must specifically say if it will be considered a misdemeanor or felony. Check your state's criminal code to see what the penalties are for each level of misdemeanor or felony.

Section 5. Appropriations Clause This clause is necessary only if your bill requires the expenditure of money. Indicate the amount of money to be spent and how that amount of money will be raised.

Section 6. Enactment Clause This clause tells when the bill will become effective. Examples include: This bill will become effective upon the signature of the Governor or this bill will become effective 90 days after signature by the Governor.

Section 7. Safety Clause The mock student legislature of the state of _____hereby finds, determines and declares that this ACT is necessary for the preservation of public health, peace and safety. [simply copy this statement.]

[A safety clause is a legislative requirement to certify that the legislature has properly determined that the bill they propose to pass into law is legitimately necessary for a proper reason under the state and federal constitutions.]

If you do not need a particular type of optional clause above, simply leave it out and move everything up a section.

* This sample bill is from the National Conference of State Legislators, America's Legislators Back to School Week. Available online at: <http://www.ncsl.org/public/trust/lessonp4-h.htm>