**E-Congress Mock Legislature Project**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

During the Legislative Branch Unit, the Government classes will be conducting a mock legislature project that will closely follow the Youth Leadership Initiative E-Congress. The project will include the following:

* Background on the structure and function of the United States Congress.
* Research of a legislative topic area of the student’s choosing.
* Inquiry into the current political climate surrounding that the topic.
* Writing a letter to a current member of congress to express an opinion and/or request legislative action in the area of interest.
* Proposing a bill and introducing it in our mock legislature.
* Studying the fiscal (monetary) implications your law would have on the government.
* Choosing a political party with whom you would like to affiliate as a senator.
* Examining the important role committees play in the law-making process.
* Participating in senate committees to study bills and make recommendations.
* Debating and voting in our mock senate on class bills.

As the unit progresses, students will be required to work on a packet that will be checked for daily grades. Participation in various activities will also earn daily grades. Major grades will consist of writing a letter to a member of congress, creating your own bill, and participation in various legislative activities.

**Phase II: Research for National E-Congress Research Guide**



Scan the QR Code to take you to the Youth Leadership Initiative website. You will follow this site to help you answer the questions in this packet.

As you work online, use this guide to navigate the pages of the Research Phase of E-Congress. This Research Guide is designed to help you keep track of all of the information you gather as you prepare to write your bill. This packet will be checked for daily grades, and will be turned in at the end of the project.

**SECTION 1 – TOPIC RESEARCH**

1) Which topic from the list on the *Choose a Topic (1)* page most interests you? Why?

2) Click on this topic to pull up a *Topic Resource Guide* that will help you research your topic. Read the political cartoons and select one to analyze.

 a) List two symbols used by the cartoonist. Explain what each symbol means.

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 b) Would you describe the cartoonist’s political ideology as liberal or conservative? Why?

c) What point is the cartoonist trying to make?

3) Next, look over the list of websites listed in the *Topic Resource Guide*. Select two websites that seem interesting to you and complete the information below.

**Website 1**

1. name of site
2. notes and useful information from this site
3. ideology of site (liberal, conservative, unbiased). Evidence to support your conclusion?

**Website 2**

1. name of site
2. notes and useful information from this site
3. ideology of site (liberal, conservative, unbiased). Evidence to support your conclusion?

**SECTION 2 – POLITICAL PARTY RESEARCH**

1) When considering what type of bill you will write, remember that it is important to consider your own political ideology. Use the Party Platform links on your *Topic Resource Guide* to read how each party approaches your topic. Do a search of your topic in each party’s platform, and fill in the information below.

(Open the platform and hit “Command F” to open search box. You may need to try multiple ways of wording your search.)

**Republican Party**

 a) This party’s positions on my topic include:

1. I agree/disagree with this party’s position on my topic because:

**Democratic Party**

 a) This party’s positions on my topic include:

1. I agree/disagree with this party’s position on my topic because:

**SECTION 3 - IDENTIFYING CURRENT LEGISLATION**

1) On the *Research Current Legislation* page, you are asked to review legislation currently under consideration by Members of Congress in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

2) Use Thomas ([www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)) to identify two recent bills on your topic. Fill in the information about each below.

**Bill 1**

1. bill title
2. sponsors (authors)
3. this bill proposes:

**Bill 2**

1. bill title
2. sponsors (authors)
3. this bill proposes:

# Section 5- REFINING IDEAS FOR LEGISLATION

2) Use the space below to list your ideas for a bill you might write for e-Congress. What might be two positive consequences of each idea? Two negative consequences?

**Idea #1:**

Positive Consequences:

Negative Consequences:

**Idea #2:**

Positive Consequences:

Negative Consequences:

**Idea #3:**

Positive Consequences:

Negative Consequences:

3) Which of the ideas above is most appealing to you? Explain why you like this idea and how you might be able to eliminate the negative consequences of a bill like this.