

**Research for Bill and Brief Project**

**Research Guide**

This Research Guide is designed to help you keep track of all of the information you gather as you prepare to write your bill. Ask your teacher if you have any questions.

**SECTION 1 – TOPIC RESEARCH**

1) Which topic most interests you? Why?

2) Google your selected issue. Select at least three websites that seem interesting to you. For each of the three sites, complete the information below. Notes from additional sites can go on a separate sheet of paper.

**Website 1**

1. Name and address of site
2. Notes and useful information from this site that I could use for my bill:
3. Ideology of site (liberal, conservative, unbiased)

**Website 2**

1. Name and address of site
2. Notes and useful information from this site that I could use for my bill:
3. Ideology of site (liberal, conservative, unbiased)

**Website 3**

1. Name and address of site
2. Notes and useful information from this site that I could use for my bill:
3. Ideology of site (liberal, conservative, unbiased)

**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 links on the class website (*Web Resources)* to read how each party approaches your topic. Fill in the information below.

**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) Review legislation currently under consideration by Members of Congress in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

2) Use the Library of Congress (https://www.congress.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 4- REFINING IDEAS FOR LEGISLATION**

1) Now that you have had a chance to take an in-depth look at an issue that interests you, complete each of the statements below to help you decide what type of bill you will write:

a) I agree with the federal government’s current approach to the issue that interests me because:

b) I disagree with the federal government’s current approach to the issue that interests me because:

c) What I would like to better understand about this issue is:

d) My ideas for a bill are different from what the government is currently doing because:

2) Use the space below to list your ideas for a bill you might write for the simulation. 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.

**SECTION 5 – UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

1. Think about the following: “to create a new program, the government normally gets the money either by cutting funds to an existing program OR by raising taxes.” How will you pay for your bill?
2. Do you think that your bill will fit into a currently funded project or would it require cutting current spending? How do you know/Where can you find out?
3. To implement a bill, the government usually needs to buy equipment and materials (computers, automobiles, office supplies) and pay for services (workers’ salaries). What are four examples of equipment, materials, and/or services that would be necessary for your bill?

**Item How Item Will Be Used**

 **a)**

 **b)**

 **c)**

 **d)**

1. The equipment, materials, and labor you described above cost money. For each item, brainstorm ideas for how you might determine its cost. What websites could you use? What organizations inside or outside the government might be able to help you?

**Item Where to Look to Determine Cost of Item**

 **a)**

 **b)**

 **c)**

 **d)**