

Research and Analyze a Bill

Objective: Research a real bill that has been proposed in Congress, analyze its journey through the legislative process, and understand the roles of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Description: Select a bill from a list of recent or historical bills, track its progress through Congress, and answer questions about its journey from proposal to enactment (or failure). This will help you understand the steps of the legislative process and the influence of various stakeholders.

Materials Needed:

- Access to the internet for research (e.g., Congress.gov, government websites)
- Worksheet for tracking and analyzing the bill (provided)

Instructions:

1. Select a Bill:
 - Choose a bill from the provided list or find a bill of interest on Congress.gov.
2. Research the Bill:
 - Investigate the bill's details, including its sponsor, purpose, and the committees it was referred to.
 - Track its progress through the House and Senate, including debates, amendments, and voting results.
3. Analyze the Bill:
 - Answer the questions on the worksheet to analyze the bill's journey through Congress.
4. Reflection:
 - Reflect on the process and what you learned about how a bill becomes a law.

Worksheet: Research and Analyze a Bill

1. Bill Information

- Title of Bill: _____
- Bill Number: _____
- Sponsor: _____
- Date Introduced: _____

2. Purpose of the Bill

- What is the main goal of the bill? Why is it important?

3. Committee Review

- Which committees was the bill referred to?
- What actions did the committees take? (e.g., hearings, amendments, reports)

4. Floor Debate and Voting

- What were the main arguments for and against the bill during the debate?
 - For: _____
 - Against: _____
- What was the outcome of the vote in the House of Representatives?
 - Yes: _____ No: _____
- What was the outcome of the vote in the Senate?
 - Yes: _____ No: _____

5. Presidential Action

- Did the President sign the bill into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature?

- If vetoed, was the veto overridden by Congress?

6. Influence of Stakeholders

- Who were the main stakeholders involved in the bill's journey (e.g., interest groups, constituents)?
- How did these stakeholders influence the bill?

7. Reflection

- What did you learn about the legislative process from researching this bill?
- What surprised you the most about the process?
- How do you think this process ensures that laws are carefully considered?

