Unit 3 Project: Bill Simulation

Name\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_

**Writing a Bill Assignment**

For this assignment, we will be practicing the legislative process as individuals and as a class! Here is how the process works:

1) You will be acting like member of the Legislature (a Senator or a House Representative). You will be assigned a problem/issue/question from the list below, such as “Should it be legal for adults to text and drive?” You will then do research online about this topic, so that you can become the “expert” on this topic. You will read articles, research what laws already exist about this idea, etc. until you feel that you know sufficient information so that if others ask you questions, you are educated on the topic and can answer them.

**2)** **Topics and Questions: CIRCLE the one you have been assigned.**

**a.** **Natural Resources**— Utah needs to move to renewable energy resources.

**b.** **Settlement**—Utah does not have enough drinking water to support the growing population.

**c.** **Land Use**— A decision needs to made about which lands should be used for recreational use and what the criteria is to determine the size of National Parks and Monuments.

**d.** **Transportation Development**— Utah needs a way to deal with the extreme traffic problems along the Wasatch Front.

3) Once you’ve done your research, you need to write a bill. A bill is like a law, only it hasn’t been passed yet. You will be the bill sponsor in class, and will present your bill to the House and Senate, so it needs to be well thought-out and you need to believe in it! One way to make sure it is a good bill is to ask yourself what potential questions your classmates could ask when you present it in the future. The bill will need to have these things:

a. **A clear opening statement** that says exactly what the law is, such as: “It is illegal for drivers in the state of Utah to have their phones in their hands. This includes not texting, picking music, talking on the phone if it is in the palm, or any kind of activity where the phone is in the hand.”

b. **An explanation of how the law will be enforced**. For example, “If this were to become a law, we would put cameras over every traffic light to ensure that people weren’t holding their phones. If caught on camera, the state would send a ticket of $500 to your home, because your address is linked to your license plate number. Failure to pay the fine would result in an additional $1,000 fine.”

c. If your bill will cost the state money, you need to **explain how you will get the money**. For example, “Because these traffic cameras and the installation of them will cost money, we will raise income tax by 0.3% to gain the money for this bill. New employees will be hired to send out the fines in the mail and monitor the cameras, and these employees will also be paid with the raised income tax.”

d. Finally, you need to explain **why this bill is important and why it should be passed**. Pretend as though you are really selling this to Congress!

4) You will be divided into houses of Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives. You will be assigned to one house. There, you will go through the process of presenting and voting on bills, using the “How a Bill Becomes a Law” process we learned in class. Make sure you come prepared on Day 2 with a well-written bill to present!

**Name of Bill (You get to choose the name): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

List your sources for this information \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. Clear opening statement (what is the law?):

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b. Explanation of how the law will be enforced or applied:

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c. If your bill will cost the state money, you need to explain how you will get the money: (your bill will cost money, nothing’s free)

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 d. Why this bill is important and why arguments against it are inaccurate or less important:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Votes **for** this bill in House\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Votes **against** this bill in House\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Passed\_\_\_\_Failed\_\_\_

Votes **for** this bill in Senate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Votes **against** this bill in Senate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Passed\_\_\_\_Failed\_\_\_

Presidential signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Veto bill\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**My Bill**

Topic Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Write your bill presentation here. What will you say to convince your classmates that your bill should be passed? Clearly define the problem that Utah is facing, and how your bill will solve this problem. Utah needs your bill to pass in order to keep being a great place to live. Put some life into your bill, make sure others feel how important your bill is. The better the presentation, the better the grade.