

# Write Proposed Legislation



## Objective

The student will identify the steps of how a bill becomes a law. The student will demonstrate presentation and debating skills during a mock session of congress. The student will identify causes as to why animals become threatened or endangered.

## Materials

*For each student group:*

- paper to create a species profile
- scrap paper
- bowl
- access to art supplies (modeling clay, paper, markers, glue, old magazines, etc.)
- Proposed Legislation** sheet
- access to Internet or library resources

## Action

### First Class Session

1. Divide the class into groups of four.
2. Explain that each group will create a fictional species by completing a Species Profile sheet along with a picture or three-dimensional model of their species' image. Students may use clay, paper and markers, or other mediums to create their models.

### Second Class Session

3. Announce to the class that all the fictional species created have just been categorized as threatened for various reasons.
4. As a class, brainstorm 10 reasons why species may be threatened with extinction; for example, habitat destruction, unregulated wild pet trade, poaching, pesticides or pollution. Write the reasons on small slips of paper and mix the slips in a bowl. Ask one representative from each group to draw a reason from the bowl. This reason identifies why their fictional species has become threatened.
5. To protect their species, student groups will write a bill using the Proposed Legislation worksheet. Student groups may need to research how a national bill is passed in congress in order to complete the worksheet.

### Third Class Session

6. When students groups have completed their species profile and their Proposed Legislation worksheet, it is time to present and debate the proposed bills in a mock session of congress. Instruct each student group to prepare a brief synopsis of their bill along with a copy of the Species Profile Funsheet. Depending on the number of proposed bills and the depth of debate, the mock session may carry over to other class sessions.

# Write Proposed Legislation



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the following questions on how laws are made.**

1. Identify the two chambers of Congress.
2. True or False: Laws may be initiated by either chamber of Congress.
3. True or False: Either chamber of Congress can make amendments to a bill.
4. Who receives the bill after it has been passed by both chambers of Congress?
5. How can a bill become a law if the President vetoes it?

## **Fill in information for your proposed legislation**

Create a Legislative Number (please write H.R. for bills introduced to the House and S. for bills introduced to the Senate. ex: S.756):

Detailed bill description:

Summarize bill in five bullet points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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Describe how this bill will protect the threatened species.

Describe the economic considerations for this bill (staffing, land, etc).

Why is this species important to protect?