

TIPS FOR WRITING LEGISLATION*



Want feedback on a student's proposal?
Submit it early with a request for feedback.



FLORIDA CIVICS &
DEBATE INITIATIVE
Building GREAT Citizens



BILL

Attempts to solve a problem, specifically outlining HOW.



RESOLUTION

Addresses a position statement on something Congress does NOT have jurisdiction over



AMENDMENT

Proposes a change to the Constitution, setting a standard or creating a procedure



KEEP

- Try to keep your legislation under a page - less is more.
- Include topics that are applicable to Congressional power
- Address topics that have several potential arguments on each side

TWEAK



- Save the "why" for your speech, especially for a bill
- Make sure your Bill is Constitutional and within Congressional power
- Avoid including funding in a Resolution or Amendment

CONGRESS CANNOT INTERFERE WITH POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES

If you are interested in writing a bill that would impact education, try something like "A Resolution to Condemn ... in Public Schools" instead of "A Bill to... [School District or state official]." Why? Because Congress cannot make a law about a specific state or local government's education, fire, or police department.

**This is a simplification of Congressional powers and procedures.*