**HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW**

**Part A: Introduction.** Look at the data for Tonya’s district and answer the questions.

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| Tonya’s district is urban and diverse. Look at the charts and make some decisions.  1) Which group would be most likely to support a bill limiting air pollution? Highlight one and explain why you chose that group.  Older people adults young people kids  Why?: . |  |
| 2) Do you think it would be a popular issue in this district? Why?  . |
| 3) Should she write to her representative in Congress about it? Why?  . |
| 4) Where might ideas for new bills and laws come from?  . |  |

**Part B: The Lawmaking Process**. Fill in the blank space for the five steps of the lawmaking process (refer to the PowerPoint as a guide). Use each word in the word bank only once.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Presidential | Bill | Hearings | Vote |
| Vetoed | Idea | Deliberate | Committees |

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| --- | --- |
|  | Step 1: The is introduced by the representative. It then becomes a . |
|  | Step 2: are held in to help Congress learn more about the issue. |
|  | Step 3: Both houses of Congress on the contents of the bill. |
|  | Step 4: Call for : The bill must pass both chambers of Congress to go to the president. |
|  | Step 5: The bill heads over to the White House for review. If it is signed, it becomes a law. If it is , Congress can override it with a supermajority. |

**Part C. Hearings and Deliberation.** Imagine you are introducing a bill on Air and Water Quality.

***“Our health and safety depend on access to safe air to breathe and clean water to drink.”***

Who would you want to give testimony? Who can teach your colleagues the most about this issue?

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Rank the people who could speak on your bill from 1 (the least helpful) to 5 (the most helpful).

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| Allergy Sufferer | Department of Energy Official | Famous Actor | Green Energy Activist | English Professor |
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Explain your choice of rankings:

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**Part D. Wrap-Up Questions.**

1. Congress has two parts. What are they? What is the difference between them?

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2. How did your constituents (the people in your district) feel about your bill? Were you surprised?

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3. Why do you think the compromise process involves adding and removing so many clauses?

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4. Who has final say on whether a bill becomes a law?

a. The President

b. The Congress

c. The people

5. What is the lowest percent of support a bill can receive and still pass the House or Senate?

a. 33 %

b. 51 %

c. 67 %

6. During this process, clauses are added and removed from a bill.

a. Re-election

b. Voting

c. Deliberation

7. If the House and Senate version of a bill don’t agree, what happens to it?

a. It gets thrown in the trash.

b. It goes to a conference committee where lawmakers try to reconcile the differences.

c. The president automatically vetoes it.