



# CURRICULUM OUTLINE

## **Meeting 1 — Why are we here? Where does our office fall in the workings of government? How can we work to make change and improve our community?**

- How does our office approach the policy process?
- What community stakeholders do we engage?
- How do we engage with different spheres & levels of government?
- What are the priorities of the office this session?
- Walk through the passage of a recent bill we have sponsored/will sponsor
- Discussion of current events and legislative implications
- What issues does the group want to focus on for the coming semester/year?
  - For next time, prepare with a position on an issue and evidence for that position

## **Meeting 2 — Selecting issue(s) of importance/interest**

- Presentation of issues important to us
  - How do they affect our community?
  - What stakeholders can we reach out to for perspectives/advice/support?
  - What aspects of our own experiences lead us to be impassioned about this issue?
- *Create an environment for debate and discussion on all issues presented—usually we find that one or two issues emerge that students are really engaged with, and would like to focus on*
- Discussion of current events and legislative implications
- Vote on 1-3 (recommended) issues we'd like to go forward with
  - For next time, do research on bills in different cities/states/countries that have addressed the issue

## **Meeting 3+ - Creating our bill(s) or working toward a project goal**

- What is the problem we are trying to solve?
    - How bold do we want our bill to be - do we want to do this incrementally or create bigger, more sweeping reform? **or**, what do we want the impact of our project to be?
    - How can we narrow down our solutions to make the most impact - if we want to?
    - Have past bills, either tangential to our community or on other levels/in other places succeeded in the same or similar reforms? **or**, have past initiatives been taken to achieve these goals in other communities?
  - What are the roles of stakeholders in our process?
    - Which stakeholders can help champion our decided position?
    - Which stakeholders might be an obstacle?
  - Is another level of government possibly better equipped to handle this issue?
  - Discussion of current events and legislative implications
  - *Ideally, by the end of, or after this meeting, students should have an idea of an outline of the specific issues the bill or project should address.*
  - *At this point, the curriculum becomes much more freeform. Students should be regularly working toward their end goals. We will help facilitate learning about how to write good bills/make meaningful projects, bringing in guest speakers/stakeholders, and may host working sessions separate from meetings with your office, at your discretion. Project NextGen will work directly with your office to craft the best strategy to make sure the students get the most out of this point in the program—including collaboration between offices.*
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