

New Ideas for Bill Development

Each year, most delegates experience that uncomfortable, staring-at-a-blank-piece-of-paper feeling.

What do you Mean Brainstorm?

- Give them recent news stories
- Assign them a current piece of legislation
- Put bill themes in a hat
- Identify things that are important to them and what changes they would make

General Tips & Tricks:

- Check out last year's bill index and try to avoid bills that were done in the previous year. Common Bills Last Year included:
 - Physical Education in High School, Elderly Drivers, Restrictions on Drivers 16-18, Curfew for Minors
- Encourage delegates to avoid these topics, unless they are going to put an interesting spin on what's already been done.
 - Legalization of Marijuana
 - Lowering the drinking age
 - Legalization of prostitution
 - Gay marriage
 - Curfew for minors
 - Euthanasia
 - Restrictions on driving for the elderly
 - Provisional licenses for teens
 - Any current hot button issues
- Avoid trying to tackle big issues. Try addressing specific, small issues.
 - Example: Too many kids hit by cars traveling 25mph sustain life-threatening injuries; 25mph is just too fast. But the speed limit around schools and parks is 25mph. Studies show that fewer kids die or sustain serious injury when the speed limit is 15mph. The speed limit should be lowered.

What if they still have no ideas?

- www.rumble.com
- www.capitolbasement.com
- Your local newspaper's website, along with major city papers like www.latimes.com, www.sacbee.com, or www.sfgate.com

Electronic resources:

- Leginfo: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>
- California Legislative Information: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
- California State Legislature- Bill Index: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/bill_index.html