

How to Write a Bill, Part III:
What a good bill does

An excellent bill should have the following traits	What a strong bill <i>will not</i> do
<p>1. Propose a realistic, thoughtful solution. This should include at least an effort to acknowledge and reconcile both sides of the argument/solution.</p> <p>2. Demonstrate a sound grasp of current law and/or policy on your topic. Your preamble should quickly and adequately lay out problems in current legislation; following sections should address legal solutions.</p> <p>3. Reflect the point of view of your senator, in so far as this is compatible with the above two points.</p> <p>4. Reflect the tone, voice, and formality of the bill examples given (see DP- docs).</p> <p>5. Mimic the formatting, punctuation, and feel of the bill examples. Use the bills template and handout to make sure you are following the layout exactly.</p>	<p>1. Make vague or incorrect statements in the preamble – this portion needs to clearly outline present law, and show why they are insufficient to address your issue.</p> <p>2. Be unpassably partisan. Although your Senator may not be entirely flexible, you will have to consider other viewpoints in the construction of your policy or it will go nowhere.</p> <p>3. Use your informal voice. (No “I’s,” opinions, thoughts, or commentary of any kind)</p>

DUE DATES

First draft of bill due for refinement:
Thursday, Beginning of Class (12/4)

Final draft due:
Thursday, End of Class

Note:

Thursday's class time will include 40 minutes of group editing, and 1 hour of work time.
Bill needs to be submitted in writing at the end of class Thursday.

Friday:

Honors roles will be in charge of selecting which bills will be debated (This will take place at lunch on Thursday), and will have that bill ready for your viewing, editing and research Friday morning