

Writing a Congress Bill can be broken down into three simple parts: **decide, write, defend.**

Step One: Decide.

Writing a Congress Bill begins by deciding what it is that you feel needs to change or improve about the world around you. That means answering a few questions.

What is the problem?

Why is there a problem? What are the factors that are contributing to the problem?

And here's where the bill comes into play - how can the problem be fixed?

Once you've figured out the change you'd like to see in the world (or country, or world), the practicalities can be decided. What kind of penalties can be put in place in order to fix the problem? How will the law affect the people? When will it be done?

Step Two: Write.

Now that you've articulated the intention of the bill, it's time to move on to the writing stages. Congress Bills begin with WHEREAS statements, which means you begin by stating the cause, and then propose the solution. This begins by writing a resolution. Here's an example:

WHEREAS Unicorns are thought to be magical but fictional,
WHEREAS Believing in Magic is good for the soul and happiness of the citizens,
WHEREAS There is not enough belief in magic in the United States,
BE IT RESOLVED that this Student Congress will commission an expedition to search for and find unicorns living in the United States.

After the resolution is written, the Bill moves on to the parameters - the funding, the penalties, and when the bill goes into effect. These are written in Sections, separating each component.

For more information on the writing stage, see the *Resolution Template*.

Step Three: Defend.

Once you take your Bill to a tournament, you're going to have to give a speech of authorship, rallying your fellow congressmen to support your bill. Your authorship speech should innumerate all the reasons your Bill is important for the citizens you're representing, and the world at large. This is where you discuss the results of your Bill, how it's going to affect things, and what that means. This can be either completely written out or spoken extemporaneously, but in either scenario, it should be well thought out and include supporting evidence.