

YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Bill Topic Identification Activity

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Divide club into small groups (3 or 4 max.)
- 2) Assign each group a subject area. (eg. Education, Transportation, Environment, Health and Welfare, Business and Commerce, Agriculture, Aging and Youth, Law and Justice)
- 3) Ask each group to identify all “constituent groups” associated with the subject area. A constituent group is a profession or organization or collection of individuals with direct or indirect interest in the subject matter.
- 4) Ask each group to identify “issues” relating to each constituent group. For example, under the subject area of health and welfare, DOCTORS would be a constituent group and MALPRACTICE INSURANCE and TORT REFORM would be two issues that could be listed.
- 5) Each issue is a potential bill topic. For each issue, participants should ask the following question: “*What is the problem with this issue?*”
- 6) If a specific problem is identified for an issue that can then be considered as a possible topic for legislation.
- 7) The activity can be expanded to have each group identify the specific problems for each issue.
- 8) If the activity is explained and monitored effectively, each group should be able to identify dozens of possible topics for bills.
- 9) The club should compile and retain a list of ALL identified issues and problems and add to them each time the activity is conducted.

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Subject Area: _____

Constituent Group: _____

Constituent Group: _____

Constituent Group: _____

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

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Research Sources: www.ncsl.org
www.issuespa.com
www.stateline.org

National Conference of State Legislatures
Pennsylvania issues website
Issues from all states