Bill Peer Edit Guidelines

Instructions: Get together with your partner, then find another team of 2-3 people that authored a bill together. Swap bills. With your partner, read the bill. In each box below, write a number 1-4, and provide a written reason why, as well as a suggestion for refinement. Copy this document into a google doc, or type right into it and email it to your partners.

**Write one of the numbers below in the box next to each criteria.**

**4: Perfect** – no need for refinement.

**3: Good** – great start, but a suggestion or two will really tighten it up.

**2: Okay –** you still have a lot of work to do on your bill.

**1. Hmmm** – what were you doing in class this whole time?

Part I: What a good bill should do.

**(strong bills will score high in this section)**

1. Propose a realistic, thoughtful solution. This should include at least an effort to acknowledge and reconcile both sides of the argument/solution.

*Comments/Suggestions:*

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.

*Comments/Suggestions:*

3. Reflect the point of view of your senator, in so far as this is compatible with the above two points.

*Comments/Suggestions:*

4. Reflect the tone, voice, and formality of the bill examples given.

*Comments/Suggestions:*

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.

*Comments/Suggestions:*

Part II: What a good bill will not do**.**

**(strong bills will score low in this section).**

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.

*If you gave them less than a 4, what, specifically could they improve?*

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.

*If you gave them less than a 4, which parts of the bill are of concern to you, and why?*

3. Use your informal voice. (No “I's,” opinions, thoughts, or commentary of any kind)

*Circle any examples of these in the bill so the author can change them.*

# Part IV: Bias Meter

When you have finished the above exercise, color one of the squares below that best show the author's bias. If the bill has a very “conservative” bent, it will rank high (to the right). If it has a very liberal bias, it will rank low (on the left).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Very Liberal | Extremely Conservative |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

* After you've filled in a square, what clues did you pick up on that tell you this?

*Note to the author: The further away you are from the middle of the Bias Meter, the less likely your bill will be to pass. If you are serious about consensus, you may want to make sure you in the middle of this spectrum.*