

TeenPact Political Communication Workshop:

Pre-Class Homework (ages 13-19)

1 Research and write a resolution advocating change on a current US public policy issue. (Our Sample Resolution shows a format to use.)

- The resolution should contain a purpose, a statement defining why you feel that the change is necessary, and a statement declaring what change you would defend.
- You will be asked to propose and defend your resolution for at least 2 minutes, so please research the issue and prepare to discuss the questions that might be asked.
- **Bring two copies of your resolution**, one to turn in and one to refer to during the class.
- Potential topic ideas:
 - US interventionism
 - Universal healthcare
 - Flat tax policy
 - Death penalty
 - Social security reform
 - School vouchers
 - Homeland security
 - Iran nuclear policy
 - Illegal immigration
 - Police violence and misconduct
- *Purpose: to be informed about current events and to understand why or why not the United States should advocate its current policy.*



- Tip: Choose an issue that will spark conversation between you and your peers. Remember to keep all topics age appropriate.

Please make sure that you show your parents your homework before turning it in. This assignment will receive in-class critique but will not receive an official grade.



Sample Resolution

This is a standard format for making your resolution for the Political Communications Workshop. Each state legislature has their own design for their resolutions. Take a look at a resolution from your state to check out the similarities and differences.

Author By: Jane Doe
Resolution number Resolution # _____

SENATE RESOLUTION

Title **A resolution** challenging the constitutionality of any individual health care mandate passed into law by the Federal Government.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution establishes a limited federal government, as expressed in the Bill of Rights, that protects the freedom of individuals and the rights of states, and

The actual specific reasons for your resolution, facts, arguments, circumstances, and all your information on the subject is to be placed within each "Whereas." **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress is currently debating the issue of health care reform, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is urged to enact legislation that respects and recognizes the rights of individuals, families, groups, and communities to make decisions about their health care insurance and treatment options, and

WHEREAS, the "individual mandate" provision included in the newly passed health care plan requires all individuals to purchase health insurance products and services, and

WHEREAS, such individual mandates are contrary to the rights of a free and prosperous people and deny individuals the right to make one of the most basic health care decisions for themselves and their loved ones, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has recognized each individual's freedom to refuse health care treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

Exactly what your resolution is going to enact. **Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of (your state's name):**

That the State Government is urged to file suit challenging the constitutionality of any individual health care mandate passed into law by the Federal Government.