

# POLITICAL COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP PRE-CLASS HOMEWORK

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Students should bring two copies of their resolution: one to turn in and one to reference throughout the day.

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**Research and write a resolution stating a formal opinion on a current United States policy issue.**

- ★ Be prepared to propose and defend your resolution with a 3 minute opening statement followed by questions, time permitting.
- ★ Bring two copies of your resolution, one to turn in and one for personal reference during class.

## **WRITING THE RESOLUTION**

The resolution should contain a purpose, a statement defining your opinion on that purpose, and a statement declaring what decision you would like the legislative body to come to regarding that opinion.

Gleaning from various resources, make sure to research your topic of choice before writing; it's important to be equipped with a well-rounded knowledge on the issue. During the class, there will be time to analyze and further prepare your resolution. If you come across helpful facts, statistics, or resources, feel free to bring those to class for personal use.

### **What is the difference between a resolution and a bill?**

*A bill is a proposed change to law, whereas a resolution is a formally stated opinion on a matter that is proposed to the legislative body for the purpose of creating consensus.*

## EXAMPLE RESOLUTION TOPICS

- ★ United States Interventionism
- ★ Universal Healthcare Reform
- ★ Flat Tax Policy
- ★ Death Penalty
- ★ Social Security Reforms
- ★ School Vouchers
- ★ Homeland Security
- ★ Iran Nuclear Policy
- ★ Illegal Immigration
- ★ Police Violence and Misconduct
- ★ ...or you decide. Research and find your own topic.

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

## PURPOSE

To be informed about current events, understand why the United States should or should not advocate its current policy, develop your own opinions about relevant happenings within our country, and to learn how to be comfortable and prepared to present your opinions regarding what you believe.

# 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.

By: Jane Doe ← **Author**

Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_ ← **Resolution number**

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

**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

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress is currently debating the issue of health care reform, 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 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,

**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. ← **Exactly what your resolution is going to enact.**