

Student Congress Manual



**Christian Communicators
of
Tennessee**

Student Congress Manual

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What is Student Congress?

In Student Congress, students have the opportunity to research and write pieces of legislation that they feel will better the society in which we live, just like our state and U.S Senators. At a tournament, debaters will then speak on the legislation while using proper parliamentary procedure. Judges score each competitor based on argumentation ability (organization, content, logic, and documented support), speaking technique (oral and physical presentation and style), knowledge of parliamentary procedure, and overall participation. In each session of Congress, a student will act as the Presiding Officer.

Robert's Rules of Order is the definitive book on parliamentary procedure.

Order for Student Congress Training

What is Student Congress?

How do you write a Bill or Resolution for Student Congress?

Authorship / Sponsorship Speeches?

How Student Congress works?

Rules of a legislative body: Overview of Parliamentary Procedure

Practice Student Congress Session

CCT Student Congress Practice Session

Presiding Officer: _____

Parliamentarian: _____

Order of Proceedings

1) Call to Order

2) Invocation

3) Opening Comments

4) Oath of Office

5) Roll Call

6) Senior Varsity Floor Debate

a) S.C. #1007 A bill to tax the use of alcohol and tobacco products.

b) S.C. #1008 A resolution to keep jobs in America.

c) SV S.C. #1024 A bill regarding airbags

e) SV S.C. #1025 A bill regarding minimum wage

f) Write Your Own Bill: S.C. #1026 _____

7] Adjourn Session

Oath of Office

I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God.

In your hearts, set Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.

I Peter 3:15-16

Student Congress Guidelines for Legislators

- 1) Remember the dignity of the Chamber**
- 2) Practice good oratorical style. Do not rush.**
- 3) Have facts, figures, and sources to back up the statements that you make.**
- 4) Listen to what others say and keep the chamber moving. Avoid rehash unless you give it a really clever twist.**
- 5) Don't play parliamentary games. If the debate becomes completely one sided, it is a good time to make a motion for previous question.**
- 6) Think clearly in terms of jurisdiction when evaluating a piece of legislation. Is it within the power of the United States government to regulate this area? (For example, since drivers' licenses are issued by the state, a law dealing with drunk driving does not really fall within the jurisdiction of the US. For that matter neither do many bills dealing with school policies).**
- 7) Feel free to amend a bill as long as the amendment is not in complete conflict with the total purpose of said bill.**
- 8) Keep it positive. Remember you are representing a constituency.**
- 9) Try to be consistent in your ideology as you approach each separate piece of legislation. (If you were strongly against extra governmental red tape with one bill, it would be inconsistent if you advocated a bill in the next debate which increased governmental red tape.)**

**CCT Student Congress
Senior Varsity Senate Session**

Senior Varsity S.C. Bill # 1007

Sponsored by Senator Samuel Adams

A bill to tax the use of alcohol and tobacco products to pay down the national debt

- 1. SECTION 1: Be It Enacted that the federal government shall collect
a 5% tax on alcohol and tobacco products sold nationally.**
- 3. SECTION 2: The tax monies so generated will be applied to pay down our national debt.**
- 4. SECTION 3: This bill will be enforced by the US Department of Treasury's
5. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**
- 6. SECTION 4: This bill will go into effect on July 1, 2013.**
- 7. SECTION 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.**

**CCT Congress
Senior Varsity Senate Session**

Senior Varsity S.C. Resolution #1008

Sponsored by Senator John Adams

A resolution to keep jobs in America.

- 1. Whereas, big US companies are leaving the country for cheaper labor**
- 2. some even funded by your tax dollars, and;**
- 3. whereas, this is resulting in a loss of jobs ;**
- 4. Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that this legislative body imposes a tariff on any goods and/or products coming into the country from US-based companies which have sent production off-shore for cheaper labor.**

CCT Senior Varsity Congress Senior Varsity Senate Session

Senior Varsity S.C. Bill #1024

Sponsored by Representative Davy Crockett

A bill to eliminate the necessity for air bags

- 1. SECTION 1: Be it enacted that car manufacturers will no longer be required to install airbags in new vehicles.**
- 3. SECTION 2: Airbag will be defined as a device which inflates during a collision.**
- 4. SECTION 3: This bill will go into effect immediately upon passing.**

CCT Senior Varsity Congress Senior Varsity Senate Session

Senior Varsity S.C. Bill #1025

Sponsored by Representative Patrick Henry

A bill to abolish minimum wage

- 1. SECTION 1: Be it enacted by this Student Congress here assembled that minimum**
- 2. wage be abolished in the United States of America.**
- 3. SECTION 2: This bill will be enforced by the US Department of Labor.**
- 4. SECTION 3: This bill will go into effect on July 1, 2011.**
- 5. SECTION 4: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby declared null and void.**

**CCT Student Congress
Senate Session**

**Write Your Own Bill
S.C. # 1026**

Sponsored by Senator _____

A bill to _____

1. BE IT ENACTED that

2. Section 1:

3.

4.

CCT Student Congress
Write Your Own Bill

Senate Session
S.C. Bill #1031

Sponsored by Senator _____

A bill to _____

1. BE IT ENACTED that

2. Section 1:

3.

4. Section 2:

5.

6. Section 3:

CCT Senior Varsity Student Congress

Bill # 1024 Airbags

PRO Speech: Airbags

-Airbags are designed for injury and fatality reduction

-By no longer REQUIRING manufacturers to install airbags, this gives the driver the choice of whether to purchase a vehicle with or without an airbag. If an injury occurs with or without an air bag, the airbag can no longer be blamed because the driver chose their own vehicle of their own free will.

-Drivers should purchase a vehicle with an airbag that can be turned on or off, so they still have a choice. That way, if the passenger or driver is too short to handle the blow of an airbag, they can simply turn it off and the driver/passenger is still given a choice.

- According to Traffic Safety by Leonard Evans, “The total number of driver and right-front passenger fatalities in cars and light trucks remained relatively unchanged from 1994 through 2002 even as the percent of drivers with airbags increased from 13% to 60% and the percent of passengers with airbags increased from 3% to 50%. This finding alone is sufficient to reject the claim that airbags would prevent 12,100 fatalities, as promised in the documentation used to justify the airbag mandate”

- Also from Traffic Safety, “A central problem for airbag system design is setting deployment thresholds. Lower thresholds lead to more deployments with the potential that the airbag might produce serious or fatal injuries in minor crashes. As the threshold is increased the airbag becomes unavailable for more crashes in which it has the potential to reduce injury severity. Regardless of what threshold is chosen, it is inevitable that there will be crashes that would have had better outcomes if the threshold had been different.”

-“While over \$60 billion has been paid for airbags (those on the roads plus those already retired), only minuscule resources have been assigned to better determine the benefits and costs associated with them.”

-Instead of forcing all car manufacturers to install airbags, we should focus on encouraging drivers and passengers to wear seat belts, which a much more practical way to prevent accidents.

CCT Senior Varsity Student Congress

Bill # 1024

CON Speech: Airbags

According to “The Benefits of Airbags” by Joe Wayne, “it could be deduced that airbags are actually supplements to the safety belt system. What it does is it reduces the chance that the passenger's or the driver's head and upper body will strike a part of the vehicle's interior. Serious injury is also reduced because these airbags actually distribute crash forces evenly across the body of the passenger. To support this claim, there is a recent study that concluded that there are already some 6000 lives already saved and kept safe because of the use of airbags”.

Regardless of the extra costs and hassles, airbags save lives and prevent injuries.

Drivers should purchase a vehicle with an airbag that can be turned on or off, so they still have a choice. That way, if the passenger or driver is too short to handle the blow of an airbag, they can simply turn it off and the driver/passenger is still given a choice. However, the manufacturer should still be required to install the airbag in the vehicle.

Injuries have occurred from air bag deployment. However, this can be avoided. According to the State Compensation Insurance Fund, “Drivers should review the vehicle owner’s manual to determine the type and location of the vehicle air bags. Drivers should wear shoulder and lap belts securely and move the seat back as far as possible and recline it slightly. This helps maintain at least 10 to 12 inches between the steering wheel air bag and the breastbone. Pedal extenders can help smaller adults maintain this distance. To reduce the risk of arm and hand injuries, drivers should hold the steering wheel from the sides (the traditional 10 o’clock and 2 o’clock positions). Tilting the steering wheel down directs the air bag deployment force away from the head and neck.”

I have been in two car wrecks. In the first wreck, I ran directly someone’s bumper and my airbag did not deploy. I had whiplash in my neck and I was very sore in the following days. In my second wreck, I was turning, and I was hit almost directly on the driver’s side. My airbag deployed and prevented me from hitting the steering wheel and I was able to walk away from the wreck with minimal soreness.

This bill should NOT be passed, I strongly urge you to vote against it.

CCT Senior Varsity Student Congress

Bill # 1025 Minimum Wage

PRO Speech: Minimum Wage

I am in support of a bill to abolish minimum wage in the United States of America which will be enforced by the US Department of Labor and go into effect on July 1, 2011. This bill will help get rid of any unfair pay to employees across America. Instead of having a set amount of pay for any and every job, there will no longer be a minimum wage. This will allow the employers to determine the value of the labor. Just because people work the same amount of hours, every job is different and the wage paid per hour should be determined by the job and labor, not by a wage set by the United States Department of Labor. This will allow employees to be more selective about the employment opportunities they choose to accept. Employees can rank job opportunities by the pay, instead of having to choose from jobs that all have the same amount of minimum wage pay. This will force employers to be wise in choosing the value of the labor that they ask of their employees and raise the employee's incentive to work harder. The minimum wage standards have gone up several times in the past years. Although many view this in a positive manner, raising the cost of minimum wage only causes the prices to go up everywhere. When minimum wage is raised, the prices go up everywhere. However, if minimum wage is abolished then this can help to stop the continuous rise of prices and help prevent the value of the American dollar from going even further down. As an employee, people may want to work harder when they know that their pay has been determined specifically by their employer and their skill set instead of simply receiving a set minimum wage that every employee in the United States has earned. A recent minimum wage study revealed that for every 10 percent increase in minimum wage employment for teens decreases by 1 to 2 percent. This means that out of the 460,000 teens that are employed in Texas 9,200 of them would suddenly be without jobs if minimum wage went from the current \$7.25 an hour to \$7.98 an hour. I encourage you to pass this bill and do not allow the standards of our employees pay to be determined by the government. Instead, lets acknowledge that each business, employee, and labor is different and leave the amount of pay rate up to each individual business.

CCT Senior Varsity Student Congress

Bill # 1025 Minimum Wage

CON Speech: Minimum Wage

Minimum wage is a way to ensure that everyone is held to a standard to pay employees

- If we abolish minimum wage, people may be forced to take jobs where they make even LESS**
- Who knows how low the value of labor could go down if minimum wage is abolished?**
- Minimum wage can always go up, and employees can always be paid more. But by abolishing minimum wage, there is no way to make sure that employees are even paid the bare minimum**
- We MUST set a standard for pay, or it will be broken**
- By abolishing minimum wage, this will make the job field even MORE competitive than it already is by allowing the wage per hour to vary even more.**

TABLE OF MOST FREQUENTLY USED PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS

Adapted for use in CCT Student Congresses

Type	Motion	Purpose	Second Required?	Debat -able?	Amend -able?	Required Vote	May Interrupt a Speaker
Privileged	26. Point of Clarification	To ask speaker to restate point	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	No
	25. Point of information	To supply information	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	No
	24. Fix Time for Reassembling	To arrange time of next meeting	Yes	Yes-T*	Yes-T*	Majority	Yes
	23. Adjourn	To dismiss the meeting					
	22. To Recess	To dismiss the meeting for a specific length of time	Yes	No	Yes-T*	Majority	No
			Yes	Yes	Yes-T*	Majority	No
	21. Rise to a Question of Privilege	To make a personal request during debate	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	Yes
	20. Call for the Orders of the Day	To force consideration of a postponed motion	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	Yes
Incidental	19. Appeal a Decision of the Chair	To reverse the decision of the chairman	Yes	No	No	Majority	Yes
	18. Rise to a Point of Order or Parliamentary Procedure	To correct a parliamentary error or ask a question	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	Yes
	17. Division of the Chamber	To verify a voice vote	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	Yes
	16. Object to the Consideration of a Question	To suppress action	No	No	No	2/3	Yes
	15. To Divide a Motion	To consider its parts separately	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
	14. Leave to Modify or Withdraw a Motion	To modify or withdraw a motion	No	No	No	Majority	No
	13. To Suspend the Rules	To take action contrary to standing rules	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
Subsidiary	12. To Rescind	To repeal previous action	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3	No
	11. To Reconsider	To consider a defeated motion again	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
	10. To take from the Table	To consider tabled motion	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	9. To Lay on the Table	To defer action	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	8. Previous Question	To force an immediate vote	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
	7. To Limit or Extend Debate	To modify freedom of debate	Yes	Yes	Yes-T*	2/3	No
	6. To Postpone to a Certain Time	To defer action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	5. To Refer to a Committee**	For further study	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	4. To Amend an Amendment***	To modify an amendment	1/3	Yes	No	Majority	No
	3. To Amend***	To modify a motion	1/3	Yes	Yes	Majority	No
	2. To Postpone Indefinitely	To suppress action	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
Main	1. Main Motion	To introduce a business	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	No

*T=Time

**Should Include:

- 1.How Appointed?
- 2.The Number
- 3.Report When?

or

To What Standing Committee

***Should Include:

- 1.Adding (Inserting)
- 2.Striking Out (Deleting)
- 3.Substituting

Notes: