How to Write a Bill: Kentucky Youth Assembly Style

This is an introduction to the bill writing process for KYA. Invite your Regional Director to help lead the workshop!

**Guidelines**

* The proposed legislation must be enforceable on the state level
* It should be important to your delegation
* It should solve a problem
* The idea can be new or can repeal a current piece of legislation

**Brainstorm Ideas**

* Break up into groups
* Make a list of issues you know about in Kentucky – some may be obvious but write it down anyway
* Share your group’s ideas with your delegation
* Pick the best ideas and start researching

**Where else can we find ideas?**

* Local Newspapers
  + Louisville Courier Journal
  + Lexington-Herald Leader
  + Kentucky Enquirer
* Speak to local business-people in your community
* Reach out to your state representatives and senators
* Ask you parents and neighbors

**Once you have an idea, make sure it meets the following criteria:**

* Creativity – *is your proposed solution a fresh idea?*
* Feasibility – *is the idea possible, considering factors like cost and time?*
* Debatable – *will your idea generate thoughtful debate at conference?*
* Relevance/Importance to Kentucky – *how would your bill help Kentucky?*

**Organizing Your Bill**

* Title
* Enacting Clause
* Body – Divided into sections
  + The body of you bill should contain answers to the following questions, at least:
    - How much will this cost and how will the state pay for it?
    - How will this law be implemented?
    - What state department will monitor this law?
    - Consequences for violating the law?
    - When will this law go into effect?