

JV Student Congress Manual



**Christian Communicators
of
Tennessee**

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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 / Ambassador Club 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) Junior Varsity Student Congress Bills

a) JV S.C. #1010: A bill to allow the killing of snakes in Tennessee in self-defense

b) JV S.C. #1012: A bill regarding airbags

c) Write Your Own Bill: S.C. #1014 _____

d) Write Your Own Bill: S.C. #1016 _____

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 Student Congress 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 /Ambassador Club Junior Varsity Congress
Junior Varsity Senate Session**

Junior Varsity S.C. #1010

Sponsored by Representative Davy Crockett

A bill to allow the killing of snakes in self defense in Tennessee

1. SECTION 1: Be it enacted that the killing of snakes for self defense or protection will
2. be allowed in the state of Tennessee.
3. SECTION 2: This bill will go into effect immediately upon passing.
4. SECTION 3: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill will be considered
5. null and void.

**CCT / Ambassador Club Senior Varsity Congress
Junior Varsity Senate Session**

Junior Varsity S.C. Bill #1012

Sponsored by Representative Samuel Adams

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
2. 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 Student Congress
House of Representatives Session**

**Write Your Own Bill
S.C. # 1014**

Sponsored by Representative _____

A bill to _____

1. BE IT ENACTED that
2. Section 1:
- 3.
- 4.

**CCT Student Congress
Write Your Own bill**

**House of Representatives Session
S. C. bill # 1016**

Sponsored by Representative _____

A bill to _____

1. BE IT ENACTED that

2. Section 1:

3.

4. Section 2:

5.

6. Section 3:

Junior Varsity Student Congress Bill # 1010

PRO Speech: Killing Snakes

- TN is home to 32 species of snakes and 4 of those species are poisonous: the copperhead, cottonmouth, timber rattlesnake, and pigmy rattlesnake.
- According to the snake bite statistics on tsnakes.org, 50,000 deaths occur worldwide from snakebites.
- In Tennessee it is illegal to harm, kill, remove from the wild, or possess native snakes taken from the wild without the proper permits.
- However, harming snakes should no longer be illegal when done out of self defense.
- It is not illegal to harm other people out of self defense, so why should harming snakes be illegal?
- There are a plethora of snakes and snake species in the state of TN, so preventing a person from harming a snake out of self defense is foolish.
- In a matter of being potentially killed by a poisonous snake, the human's life is more important!
- Anything done out of self defense is totally justified

Junior Varsity Student Congress Bill # 1010

CON Speech: Killing Snakes

- Snakebites in the United states are rare and dying from a snakebite is even more rare
- According to tsnakes.org, “Of the 50,000 deaths that occur worldwide each year, only about 12-15 of those occur in the U.S. The top five states in which you are most likely to die from snakebite are Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Alabama. All of these states have species which are more lethal than those found in Tennessee”.
- About 3000 of the snakebites are caused because the victim was handling or molesting the snake when the bite occurred.
- People should use more common sense when handling snakes AND NEVER TOUCH POISONOUS SNAKES
- Also found on tsnakes.org, “50% of bites are 'dry' bites where the snake has not injected any venom. Snakes can control the amount of venom they inject. They need their venom to subdue prey, and they do not prey upon humans. In fact, it is the humans who prey upon the snakes”.
- SNAKES DO NOT PREY ON HUMANS
- Instead of harming and killing these snakes out of “self defense”, people should practice safety and common sense.
- Many incidents with snakes can be avoided by avoiding contact and maintaining distance from the snake.
- Snakes that are not poisonous do not pose a threat. Only 4 out of the 32 snake species in Tennessee are venomous.
- People who want to avoid dangers with snakes should learn how to distinguish poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes.

Junior Varsity Student Congress Bill # 1014 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.

Junior Varsity Student Congress Bill # 1014

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.

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
	21. Rise to a Question of Privilege	To make a personal request during debate	Yes	Yes	Yes-T*	Majority	No
	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: