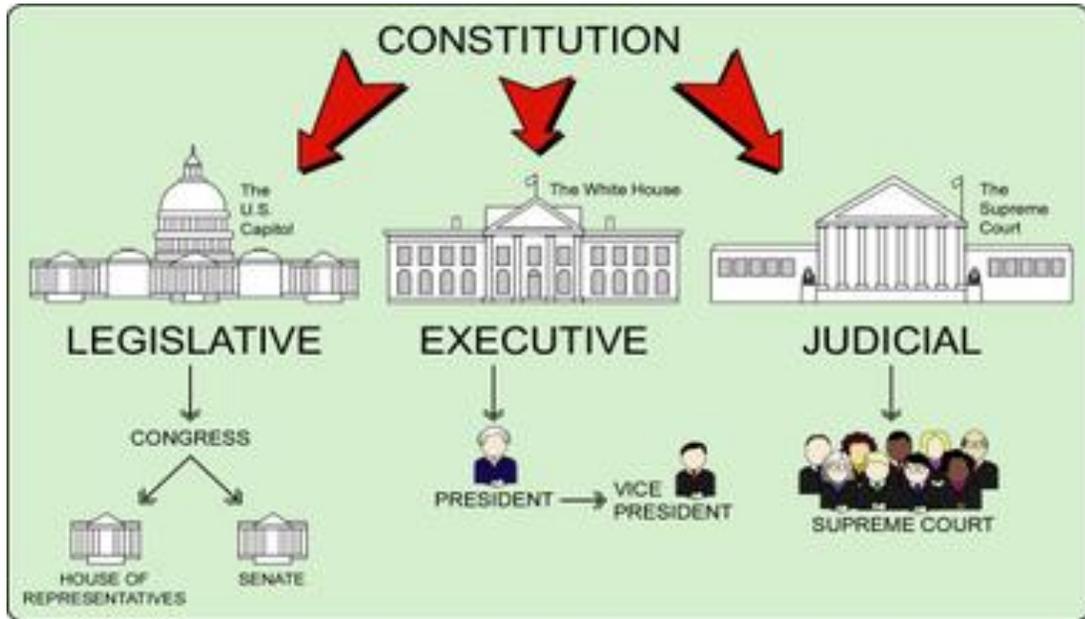


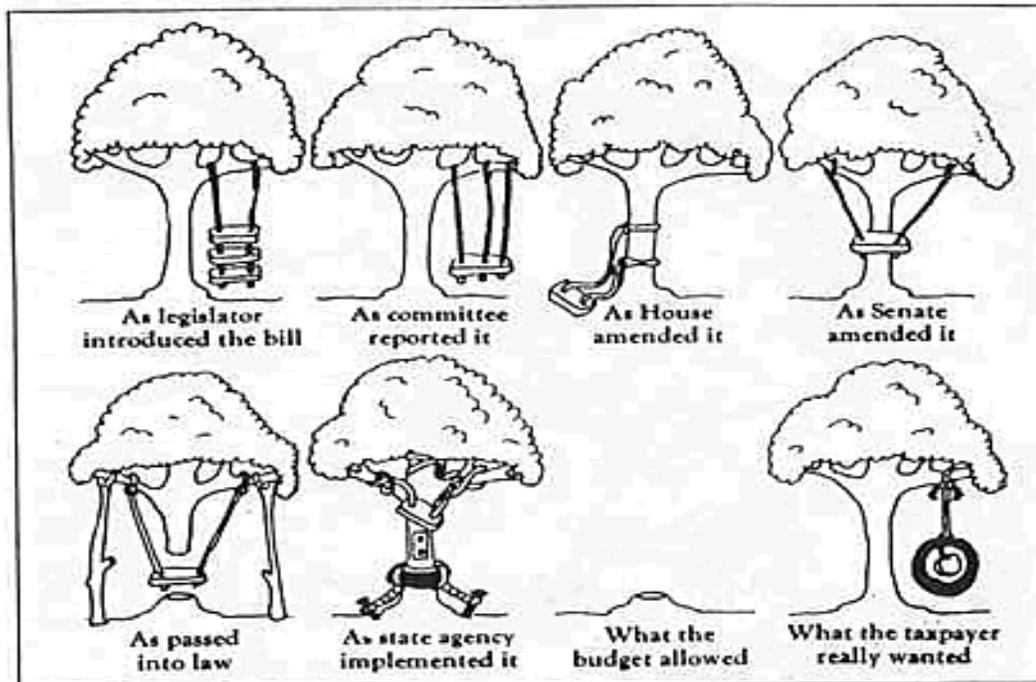


Sample Training Outline:

- 1.) How Federal Legislation Works
- 2.) Legislative Visit Roles: Including a Role Play
- 3.) Circle Diagram: Participants work in groups and draft their Talking Points
- 4.) Strategic Sharing: Traffic Light activity



The Legislative Process





What do we mean by “Federal Legislation?”

1. Federal laws are rules that apply throughout the United States. These laws apply in every state, such as
2. Each state has its own system of laws and courts that handle state matters, including welfare, public assistance and Medicaid.
3. Local laws: Counties, cities, and municipalities within a state often have their own system of laws and courts that handle rent laws, zoning and local safety.

Who can introduce a bill?

A bill can come from a variety of sources:

- Individual citizens
- Special interest groups
- Corporations
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Only a member of Congress can introduce the bill. A bill can start in either House.

How does a bill become a law?

1. A bill is introduced
2. The bill is assigned to a committee for consideration.
3. A subcommittee considers the bill, marks it up and reports out, by majority vote.
4. The full committee considers the bill, marks it up and reports out, by majority vote.
5. The bill goes to the House/Senate floor for a vote by all members. Members can offer amendments. A final majority vote passes or fails to pass the bill.
6. The bill is sent to the Senate/House where it goes through steps 2-5 as outlined above.
7. After both houses of Congress pass their versions of the bill, a Conference Committee is appointed to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.
8. The Conference Committee’s version of the bill is reported back to the House and Senate for their consideration.
9. After passage of the Conference bill, in identical form by both the House and the Senate, the bill goes to the President for his consideration. The president either signs or vetoes the bill.
10. Congress can override a Presidential veto by a 2/3 vote of both houses.

Roles during legislator visits

(Flip Charts)

1. Introduction (*names and county of each participant, especially if they are constituents*)

Which youth will be filling this role? _____

Have they written a cheat sheet and practiced in order to prepare?

2. Overview/Background Information (*the problem*)

Which youth will be filling this role? _____

Have they written a cheat sheet and practiced in order to prepare?

3. Personal Story (*why it matters to you*)

Which youth will be filling this role? _____

Do they know about strategic sharing? Have they decided what to share strategically?

4. Statistics (*how this story fits into the big picture*)

Which youth will be filling this role? _____

Have they written a cheat sheet and practiced in order to prepare?

5. What You Are Asking For (*simple, clear request*)

Which youth will be filling this role? _____

Have they written a cheat sheet and practiced in order to prepare?

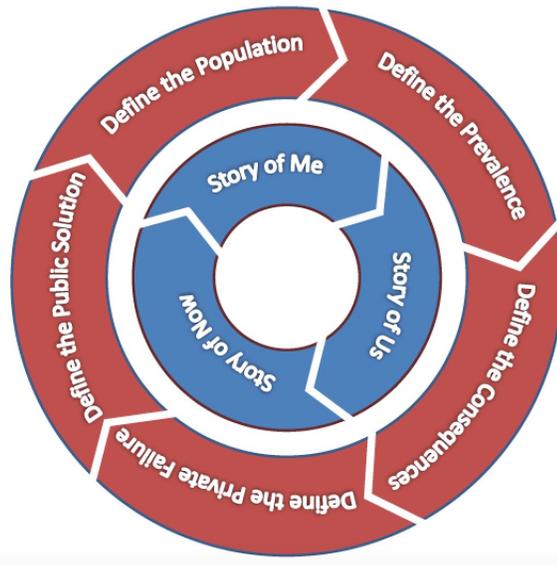
6. Thanks for Your Time and Packet of Information (*fact sheets, talking points, contact information*)

Which youth will be filling this role? _____

Have they looked over the folder and become familiar with what's inside?

Tips for legislator visits

1. Dress appropriately
2. Arrive early (*these offices can be hard to find*)
3. Practice ahead of time; talking points
4. Reference the exact bill by number
5. **K-I-S-S (Keep It Short, Simple...)**
6. Ask if the legislator has taken a position on this issue
7. Remember to be nice, even if s/he doesn't agree with you
8. **Take photos – to be included in the thank you letter that Lisa will send after visit**



Define the Population

- Who are we talking about, and how specific can we get?

Define the Prevalence

- Is the problem local or national? How big is the problem as a raw number?
- How big is the problem relative to the rest of the population or comparative group?

Define the Consequences

- What systems does the problem affect and how badly?
- What's the moral argument? What is the economic argument?

Define the Public Failure and Proposed Solution

- What are the private and public forces that are currently dealing with the problem?
- Why are they unable to solve the problem?
- What public forces are best positioned to solve this problem, and how can they be mobilized?