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REQUIREMENT FOUR(F): MODEL CONGRESS – LOBBYIST

4f

Standard C – Getting Involved

DUE DATE: Everyday

For this requirement, you will be a lobbyist on the issue of _____. You will be taking the _____ point of view.

Your Goal: During the Model Congress activity you will need to pass a bill into law that is written about the above issue. You will be given both money and votes to use to persuade representatives to support and vote on your bill. If you can get your bill passed into law, then you will receive a “B”. If you get your bill passed into law and also get your opposing lobbyist’s bill killed, you will receive an “A”. If you don’t get your bill passed to the President, you will receive an NC.

Hints on Lobbying:

1. **Write the Bill for a Representative** – Remember only representatives can introduce a bill, but they probably don’t want to write a bill for you. You should write the bill for them (about your issue but don’t put your name on it).
2. **Get Someone Powerful to Support your Bill** – You want someone who has power to push your bill through Congress (like the Speaker of the House, or Majority Leader). You need leaders in both the full house and in the committees.
3. **Watch your Bill Closely** – Remember that your bill must pass both the House and Senate and the President. You need to follow it through all of the steps.
4. **Use your Money and Votes Wisely** – Only give money and votes if you have to, and don’t give away all your money early. You must report all money you give to representatives to the media. You have 24 hours to do this. If you don’t, you are acting illegally and you will be penalized (fined, money and votes taken away from representatives you have lobbied, banned from doing business in Congress, or negative press articles – depending on the severity of the act).
5. **Manage your Votes** – Make sure that when your bill comes up for a vote that it will pass. If it won’t you will need to do more work so that it doesn’t get killed.