

TITLE OF LESSON

American Government Unit 2 Lesson 30 – Model Congress Conclusion  
*How does democracy work?*

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TIME ESTIMATE FOR THIS LESSON

One class period

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ALIGNMENT WITH STANDARDS

California – History 12.3, 12.4, 12.8, 12.10

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MATERIALS

**Current Events Presentation** – Student Page  
Committee Folders – Teacher Created  
Floor Action Poster – Teacher Created

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LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To experience the process of democracy by attempting to pass Bills into law
  - To develop and pursue strategies toward getting a Bill passed into law
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FOCUS AND MOTIVATE STUDENTS – WARM-UP ACTIVITY

- 1) Homework Check – Stamp/initial complete homework assignments. Pass back graded work and have students place in the appropriate section of their binders.
  - 2) **Agenda** – Have students copy the goal, agenda, and homework onto the next clean page in their binders.
  - 3) **Current Events** – Collect the overhead transparencies from the Current Events presenters for today. Below the goal/agenda, copy the titles for three current events stories that they have chosen. Have students copy these and prepare to take notes.
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ACTIVITIES – INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP

1. **Current Events Presentations** – Have students come to the front of the class one at a time to present their articles. At the end of each presentation, the students should turn in their **Current Events Presentation** sheet, stapled to a copy of the news article. Grades and comments should be written on the back of the **Current Events Presentation** sheet and returned to the students the next lesson. Choose the presenters for the next day that current events are due and give them a copy of the **Current Events Presentation** sheet to complete.
2. **Committee Meetings** – Have students work on discussing and voting for any remaining Bills. It is by no means necessary for all Bills to be voted on in committee (in fact, most never make it out of committee), but if there are a few key Bills remaining, give the students about 10 minutes to finish their business.
3. **Party/Caucus Meetings** – Since today is the final day for the Model Congress, you want to make sure that there is some time for any last strategy sessions for different groups to pass particular Bills. Give students somewhere between 5 and 10 minutes in these meetings.
4. **Floor Action** – Students should move their desks/tables into the Senate Chamber format and sit in their appropriate seats. Remind them to take out their notebooks and open to the Floor Action Record chart. Call the Senate to order – with the gavel! – and ask the Majority Leader how he/she wants to begin today’s floor action. Students might be trying to rush through votes on Bills as fast as possible with little to no debate. This is normal and happens at the end of each legislative session in our government. In fact, sometimes they don’t make it (especially in regards to the fiscal budget). This may require them to work all the way up to the end of class. If so, make sure that they know the homework at the beginning of class.

5. After Class – Review Lesson 31 and the Model Congress Statistics chart that you need to create today. When the class is finished it is important to finalize all of the votes on the **Official Record of Bills** sheet and on the Daily Record poster. Once this is finished, compile the information to complete the Model Congress Statistics chart. Furthermore, it will make Lesson 31 easier if ALL of the Bills are put, in order, into the Model Congress Binder.
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#### HOMEWORK

1. Complete study guide notes for test.
  2. Continue service requirement work
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#### GROUP ROLES

None

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#### DOCUMENTATION FOR PORTFOLIO

##### **Unit 1**

Action Plan  
Persuasive Essay or Flash Argument: Why should government care...?  
American Government Unit 1 Final Exam

##### **Unit 2**

Political Beliefs Project  
Ideological Plan  
GIP Question Sheet  
Service Requirement Check-Ins