

How to Write a Bill

So you want to write a bill, huh? Well, the first thing to remember is this: a good idea isn't necessarily a good bill. In other words, just because something would help the State of Georgia doesn't mean that it is a good bill topic for Georgia Girls State delegates.

Seem strange? Well, here's why: Girls State bills need to be ideas that can be debated effectively. That means that a bill about requiring State Prisons to use only recycled paper probably isn't so good because no one will want to argue about it!

And really good arguing can only happen if a few other things happen. We've broken it all down for you. Here's what we think makes a good bill:

- □ **Debatability**-- people are going to want to argue about your bill from both sides of the issue. If you can't think of an argument against your bill, you should probably pick a different one!
- □ **Importance to Georgia Girls State**-- the idea here is that a bill that affects a lot of people or a wide variety of people is better than a bill that only affects a few people or a narrow range of people. If a topic has been in newspapers or on TV, then it may be a good bill topic.
- □ **Feasibility**--your bill idea could actually work the way you want it to in the real world; it's realistic.
- □ **Researchability**--you are going to be able to find facts, statistics, and news articles supporting your idea.

The KEY to a good bill is that it is an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your bill, the more you will want to put the work in that will make it successful.