

SESSION FOUR >>

Playing LawCraft

- WRITE >>** the following terms on the board: constituent, bill, amendment, and veto.
- ASK >>** the students if they recognize any of the words on the board.
- READ >>** a definition and allow the students to guess which word it is. When they are done, repeat all words and definitions.
- a person who elects someone to represent them in government (“constituent”)
 - a law that has been proposed, but not voted on or approved (“bill”)
 - an addition to a bill or to the Constitution (“amendment”)
 - the power that lets the President stop bills from becoming laws (“veto”)
- LOG ON >>** to www.icivics.org.
- NAVIGATE >>** to *LawCraft* by following these steps: click the “Play Games!” button on the main screen, then scroll down to the *LawCraft* game.
- INSTRUCT >>** players to click on “Instructions” if they haven’t played the game before, or to jump right in by clicking “Play.” They should follow these steps:
1. On the opening screen, players must design their legislator. Once all these decisions have been made, click “Confirm.” Then players must select an issue to work on. They may scroll through constituent letters using the “next” and “back” arrows, then clicking “Confirm” when they have found an issue they like.
 2. After reading the tutorial screens, players begin crafting legislation by adding amendments to their bill. They can see how this affects their supporting votes by watching their fellow Congresspeople move from the nay to yea column.
 3. Once they have gained 51% or greater support, players may move on to compromising by clicking “Pass This Bill!” After reading tutorial screens, they should try to formulate a bill that meets the criteria for both the House and Senate.
 4. Once a bill is complete, players must send their bill to the President. He can veto it (unless it’s veto-proof) and send it back for changes... or the bill becomes a law!
- *OPTIONAL >>** Distribute the *LawCraft: Your Experience* worksheet and allow players to complete it while they play the game.

Your Name:



1 Which part of Congress did you choose?

House of Representatives

Senate

WHO ARE YOU?

2

Put an X on the state or district you represent:

A map of the United States with state boundaries outlined. The map is light green and set against a background of faint, repeating circular logos of various state legislatures.

3

Circle your core value:

CHOOSE A PERSONAL VALUE

- Liberty**
means that people have the freedom to do things that they want to do.
- Equality**
means that everyone is treated fairly and has an equal chance.
- Competition**
means that people are encouraged to compete to succeed.
- Cooperation**
means that people are encouraged to work together to get things done.
- Cost Saving**
means that the government is not spending a lot of money.
- Generosity**
means the government is providing large benefits or services to citizens.

4

Circle the political party you chose:

CHOOSE A POLITICAL PARTY

- Democratic**
We believe that every American..
- Republican**
Our Republican ideals are those..

WHAT WAS YOUR LAW?

What was the core issue in the letter you chose? Write it here:

Write one sentence that explains the issue:

Round 1: Crafting Your Bill

How many of the selected amendments support your core value? _____

What percentage support did you achieve? _____

Round 2: In Committee

In the final compromise bill, how many amendments support your core value?

Is the final compromise bill veto-proof?

Yes No

Passing the Bill

What percentage support do you need to pass a bill?
_____ %

What percentage support do you need to override a presidential veto?
_____ %

Round 3: The President

Did the President sign or veto your bill?

Sign Veto

If he vetoed it, what did you do?

Round 4: The Final Product

If the President has signed your compromise bill, congratulations!!! You have created a law. Do you like your new law? Why or why not?

