

# **MOCK CONGRESS SIMULATION**

In the next few weeks, we will be organizing a simulation of the United States House of Representatives.

## PROCEDURE

Each student will be assigned to play the role of a specific real individual. Students will need to research that individual and complete the assignments below. We will then meet in party caucuses, committee sessions and finally floor debate and voting. Students will determine the relevant committee bills will be sent to.

## PRIOR TO THE SIMULATION:

- 1) A **credential** identifying the individual you are assigned to play and details described on the attached credential handout.
- 2) A **bill** which is consistent with information provided in your credential above. The bill should be original student work and not just a copy and paste of an existing bill.
- 3) A well-researched **bill briefing paper** which provides a rationale for your bill, research to support it, and a bibliography of resources used in your research.

## AFTER SIMULATION:

- 4) A **newsletter** for mass mailing to your constituents outlining your accomplishments as a legislator and your service to your district or state.
- 5) A **reflection**
- 6) **Self-evaluation sheet**

## PORTFOLIO

At the conclusion of the simulation, you will be required to turn in a portfolio of your work containing all of the above assignments. The project shall count for 200 summative points on the second nine weeks grade.

CONGRESS CREDENTIAL

YOUR REAL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

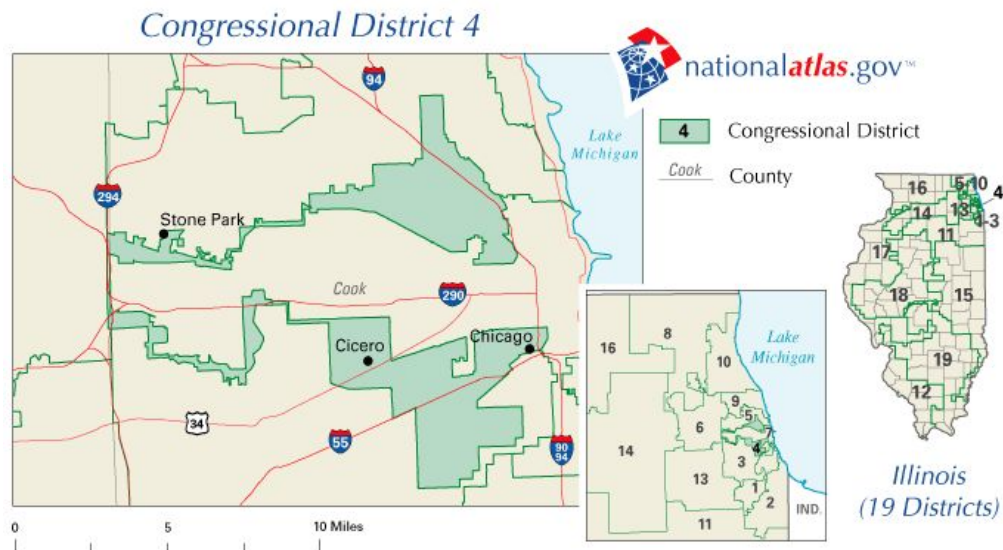
Fill in the information below. Grey type is an example and should be replaced with your own content. Delete these instructions.

NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE: Luis Gutierrez

NAME OF STATE (OR STATE AND DISTRICT NUMBER): Illinois 4th District

POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

INSERT MAP: (go to <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/printable/congress.html#list>)  
Replace map below with a map of your state or district.



#### BIOGRAPHY:

Luis Gutierrez is a Democrat first elected to Congress in 1994 from the newly redrawn Illinois 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District that has a large Hispanic majority. Before being elected to Congress, Mr. Gutierrez was an alderman in the City of Chicago, an advisor to the late Mayor Harold Washington, a teacher, and a social worker. He has a very liberal voting record and is particularly interested in issues such as immigrant rights and immigration reform. Source: <http://www.fantasycongress.com>

#### DESCRIPTION OF STATE OR DISTRICT:

The Illinois 4<sup>th</sup> District is located mostly within the boundaries of the City of Chicago though its rather odd gerrymandered shape has a narrow corridor running west into the suburbs. Its population is mostly Hispanic (and was drawn with that purpose in mind)

and includes a large population of recent immigrants many of whom are relatively low income and recent arrivals in the United States.

LEGISLATION

YOUR REAL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the template below, draft a bill that you wish to introduce and get passed by our Congress. Limit your bill to no more than two type written pages. Once your bill is complete, make two copies of your bill for both you and your instructor and save an electronic copy. Grey type is inserted as example and should be deleted and replaced by your own content. (These instructions should be deleted.) Black type is part of the template and should remain in the existing format.

**Citizenship Promotion Act of 2009 (Introduced in House)**

113th CONGRESS  
1st Session  
**H.R.** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**April 3, 2009 (today's date)**

Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. REYES) The names in parentheses are co-sponsors of the bill. If other students wish to publicly support your bill, they may wish to be added as co-sponsors, but co-sponsors are not required.

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**A BILL**

To assist aliens who have been lawfully admitted in becoming citizens of the United States, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SEC. 1. IMMIGRATION SERVICE FEES. Fees assessed for immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship shall not exceed the cost of processing the application for citizenship including the cost of required examinations and criminal background checks. This fee shall be set at the beginning of each fiscal year by the head of the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), and shall not be changed once on application for citizenship has been submitted and paid for.

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION OF TESTS FOR NATURALIZATION.

- (a) Tests for citizenship shall be in English and applicants must demonstrate an ability to understand conversational English and the fundamentals of American history and government.
- (b) The test for citizenship shall be uniform throughout the United States, however accommodation may be made for physical handicaps or diagnosed learning disabilities.

BILL BRIEFING PAPER

YOUR REAL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF BILL: **Citizenship Promotion Act of 2009**

AUTHOR: Luis Gutierrez

**OBJECTIVE:** In this space, briefly explain why you (your assigned Representative or Senator) feels this bill is needed. For example:

The Citizenship Promotion Act is needed because lawful immigrants often face financial burdens in applying for citizenship. This law will help ensure that the cost of applying for citizenship shall be kept to the minimum. The bill is also intended to ensure uniformity across the country so that tests and procedures do not become unnecessarily burdensome, confusing or discriminatory.

**MEANS:** In this space describe how your bill will attempt to achieve its stated objective. For example:

The bill mandates that fees be limited to the cost of processing applications for citizenship and the cost of administering and scoring citizenship tests and that such fees not be used as a means of raising revenue (in effect imposing a discriminatory tax on those applying for citizenship). Uniformity of procedures are also ensured by this bill by mandating that procedures and tests do not vary from one jurisdiction to another.

**COSTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** If your bill requires the expenditure of funds. List that amount here as well as what federal agency will be in charge of spending these funds. Even if the bill does not require funding, explain what federal agency will be effected and explain what its duties and obligations will be under the bill. For example:

The Department of Immigration and Naturalization shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this bill's requirements.

**COMPATIBILITY:** In the space below, explain how your bill fits the needs and priorities of your district, party, or political philosophy. In short, why would your assigned representative propose such a bill. For example:

Illinois' 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District includes a large Hispanic population. Many people in the 4<sup>th</sup> and around the country are legal residents of the United States but not citizens of the United States. Passage of this bill would serve their interests by making naturalization procedures affordable and easier to comply with.

## CANDIDATE NEWSLETTER

YOUR REAL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Either in the space below or using Microsoft Publisher design a newsletter to send home to your constituents. Remember, this is an election year, and while most members of Congress either run unopposed for reelection or face token opposition, you still want to convince the voters back home that you are the greatest Representative ever.

Be careful though because federal campaign finance laws make it illegal to use tax dollars to promote your campaign. This is a “newsletter” and not campaign literature. This means you may not explicitly call for your reelection or bad mouth your opponent (at least not directly) in this mailing.

See the link below for an example of format, pictures, and news items you might want to include: <http://luisgutierrez.house.gov/>

The link is for Representative Gutierrez’s website, but the content and format is similar to a printed newsletter. Include only “news” that is flattering to your candidate and be sure to include contact information should a constituent want to contact your offices (office address and phone number for example). For the best grade, also include many flattering pictures of your Representative or Senator.

The stories included in your newsletter should be real and not made up. You can find news stories for most Congressmen on their respective websites.

## MOCK CONGRESS REFLECTION

1. What political party was your member affiliated with?
2. Why do you think this member chose this party? Be specific.
3. How did your affiliation with this party serve the interests of your state or district or the interests of the nation?
4. What did your party stand for?
5. What actions did you take to increase your influence within your party or within the Congress as a whole?
6. How successful were you? What explains your success or failure in achieving your objectives?
7. What could you have perhaps done differently to be more effective?

8. Why did you propose the bill you submitted?

9. What arguments did you make in support of your bill?

10. Was your bill Constitutional? If so, cite the part of the U.S. Constitution where your bill or bills like it are authorized. (See Article 1 Section 8 and tenth amendment.)

11. What did you find most satisfying about this experience?

12. What did you find most frustrating?

13. Did the member you were assigned have similar views/beliefs as you? If not, how are your views different? If so, how are your views the same?



Participation in Congress (10%) Includes unexcused absences.	Did not say a word either in committee hearings or in floor debates. Passive and uninvolved.	Spoke occasionally in either committee or floor debates. Attentive though not particularly active.	Consistent and active participant speaking often both in committee and floor debate
Decorum (10%) Includes unexcused absences.	Was disruptive and uncooperative and a negative influence on the proceeding	Occasionally less than serious and off task stepping out of my role	Attentive, respectful and engaged in the proceedings <u>at all times</u>
Consistency (10%) Includes unexcused absences.	Content of legislation and participation was inconsistent with the assigned role and often contradicted myself in my votes and other actions	Legislation and participation had little to do with professed major priorities or ideas of assigned member though marginally consistent otherwise	Thoroughly consistent both in the content of legislation and participation. Both matched up well with assigned role
Portfolio (70%)	No portfolio turned in or substantial portions missing or incomplete	Satisfactory portfolio complete or mostly complete	Extremely well done portfolio written and assembled with thoroughness and strong evidence of research and use of concrete details. . Turned in on time.

Extra Credit: (Circle all that apply.)

Selected as Committee Chairman or ranking minority member	3 pts
Got “pork barrel” goodies (earmarks) for your home state or district included in legislation that was signed into law	3 pts

**116th Congress-convened in January, 2019**

Student Name	Role	Party

Austin	Kevin McCarthy/Minority Leader/23th District/California	Rep
Dylan	Joseph Kennedy/4th District/Massachusetts	Dem
Kobe	John Lewis/5th District/Georgia	Dem
Grace	Susie Lee/3rd District/Nevada	Dem
Shabrie	Martha Robie/2nd District/Alabama	Rep
William	Joaquin Castro/20th District/Texas	Dem
Mary	Debbie Dingle/12th District/Michigan	Dem
Ryan F.	Michael Guest/3rd District/Mississippi	Rep
Luke	Steny Hoyer/Majority Leader/5th District/Maryland	Dem
Shelby	Gwen Moore/4th District/Wisconsin	Dem
Ariah	Jennifer Wexton/10th District/Virginia	Dem
Tyler	Louie Gohmert/1st District/Texas	Rep
Carter	Mike Simpson/2nd District/Idaho	Rep
Tristan	Pete King/2nd District/New York	Rep
Ava	Ilhan Omar/5th District/Minnesota	Dem
Ryan L.	Harold Rogers/5th District/Kentucky	Rep
Lily	Nancy Pelosi/Speaker of the House/12th District/California	Dem
Osias	Steve Scalise/Minority Whip/1st District/Louisiana	Rep
Julie	Mary Gay Scanlon/5th District/Pennsylvania	Dem
Kaytea	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez/14th District/New York	Dem
Karver	Liz Cheney/At Large/Wyoming	Rep
Kegan	Scott Tipton/3rd District/Colorado	Rep
Easton	Matt Gaetz/1st District/Florida	Rep
Andrew	James Clyburn/Majority Whip/6th District/South	Dem

	Carolina	
Ella	Ann Kuster/2nd District/New Hampshire	Dem
Alex	Ben Lujan/3rd District/New Mexico	Dem
Kai	Steve Watkins/2nd District/Kansas	Rep
Josh	Steve King/4th District/Iowa	Rep
Max	Tim Burchett/2nd District/Tennessee	Dem