

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROLE PLAY

Carol Cleaveland  
George Mason University

Social Policies, Program & Services

U.S. Congressional Committees: Students are instructed before class to write a bill related to some aspect of social welfare policy, and to review readings from the Internet on how a bill becomes a law. In class, we review the process of how a bill becomes a law including aspects of the legislative process such as veto, conference committee, death of a proposed bill in subcommittee etc.

After this review, students are divided into committees with one student becoming Speaker of the House. Each student puts his/her bill in The Hopper. (You need a cardboard box for this activity.) The speaker then assigns bills to committees for deliberation. The committees are instructed to choose and report out the bill they think is most viable. The exercise ends with a discussion of the issues raised by each committee in deciding whether to report out the bills. (Note: I have considered having the committees correspond to real Congressional committees, but I think doing so would be too confusing for a brief exercise.)