VOTING IN CONGRESS:
It’s More Than Just "Yea" or "Nay"

Day 2: Try Your Hand!
BILL “A”

Stop mail delivery on Saturdays!

Yikes! That seems like a big decision!

We’d better look at the four factors...
Does Congress have the power to establish post offices?

A. Yes
B. No
Does Congress have the power to stop Saturday mail delivery?

Is deciding what days mail will be delivered part of establishing a post office?

A. Probably
B. Probably not
Does Congress have the power to stop Saturday mail delivery?

Therefore:

A. Congress has the power to stop Saturday mail delivery

B. Congress does not have the power to stop Saturday delivery

(Quickly explain why on your paper.)
FACTOR #2

In your opinion, should Saturday mail delivery end?

WAIT!

There are a few things you should know before you make up your mind.
The U.S. Postal Service pays for itself with the money it brings in from its services.
HOWEVER... The Postal Service is losing a LOT of money because people are sending fewer letters.
Instead of using the mail, people are texting and sending email...

... and paying their bills online.
In 2009, the Postal Service lost
$ 3,800,000,000
(That’s $3.8 billion.)
(With a “b.”)

Stopping delivery on Saturdays would save the Postal Service
$ 3,000,000,000
(That’s $3 billion.)
In your opinion, should Saturday mail delivery end?

Is it worth it? Should you consider other factors besides how much money it costs?

Decide what you think and mark your answer on your paper. Don’t forget to explain your choice.
FACTOR #3

Would your political party support ending Saturday delivery?

Look at the checklist of values on your handout.

Which value most matches the purpose of this bill?
FACTOR #3

Would your political party support ending Saturday delivery?

Cost saving!

That means the Republican Party would be most likely to support this bill.
FACTOR #4

Would your **voters** support ending Saturday mail delivery?

**WAIT!**

There are a few things you should know before you make up your mind.
In 1957, Congress passed a law to stop Saturday mail. It lasted one Saturday!

Voters were so angry that Congress passed a bill to bring Saturday delivery back!
FACTOR #4

Would your voters support ending Saturday mail delivery?

Did they have email in 1957?

A. Yes
B. No

(Do you think that would make a difference to voters today?)
FACTOR #4

Would your **voters** support ending Saturday mail delivery?

For this activity, let’s pretend the state or district you represent has more older voters than younger voters.
FACTOR #4

Would your **voters** support ending Saturday mail delivery?

Older voters are more likely to still use the Postal Service. Younger voters are more likely to use email.
FACTOR #4

Would your **voters** support ending **Saturday mail delivery**?

So... Do you think your voters will support this bill?

Mark your papers.
TIME TO VOTE!

You’ve looked at all four factors.

Now you must weigh them all and decide whether to vote “yea” or “nay.”

Mark your papers.
TIME TO VOTE!

If you marked “yea,” raise your hand.

If you marked “nay,” raise your hand.
TIME TO VOTE!

Did the bill pass?
BILL “B”

Increase the minimum wage from $7.25 to $7.50 per hour.

25 cents! That's a lot!

We'd better look at the four factors...
FACTOR #1

Does Congress have the power to raise the minimum wage?

What is the minimum wage?

A. It’s the smallest amount anyone has ever earned!

B. It’s the lowest hourly rate an employer is allowed to pay an employee.
Does Congress have the power to raise the minimum wage?

Look at the list of powers Congress has. Does it say Congress can set peoples’ wages?

A. Yes
B. No
FACTOR #1

Does Congress have the power to raise the minimum wage?

What power lets Congress do something that’s not on the list if it relates to something that is on the list?

Make any laws “necessary and proper” for laws on the list!
Does Congress have the power to raise the minimum wage?

Look at the list again. Is there a power that might relate to the money people earn at their jobs?
Does Congress have the power to raise the minimum wage?

Here’s a hint: It’s one of these three powers:

A. Establish post offices
B. Pass laws about business that happens across state lines
C. Declare war
FACTOR #1

Does Congress have the power to raise the minimum wage?

Businesses are the ones that pay people a wage, so this power is related to a bill about the minimum wage.
FACTOR #1

Does Congress have the power to raise the minimum wage?

Mark your papers!
FACTOR #2

In your opinion, should Congress raise the minimum wage to $7.50 per hour?

Mark your papers!
FACTOR #3

Would your political party support raising the minimum wage?

Look at the checklist of values on your handout.

Which value most matches the purpose of this bill?
FACTOR #3
Would your political party support raising the minimum wage?

Generosity!

That means the Democratic Party would be most likely to support this bill.
FACTOR #4

Would your voters support raising the minimum wage?

WAIT!

There is some important information that will help you decide...
FACTOR #4

Would your *voters* support raising the minimum wage?

Some states have their own minimum wage that is higher than the national minimum wage.

Some do [not](https://example.com).
CHECK OUT THE MINIMUM WAGE LAWS IN YOUR STATE:

The state’s minimum wage law is...

- higher
- lower
- equal to

... the national minimum wage.

- No state minimum wage.

Write down the information for your state.

Source: http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/americ.htm
FACTOR #4

Would your **voters** support raising the minimum wage?

Mark your papers!
You’ve looked at all four factors.

Now you must weigh them all and decide whether to vote “yea” or “nay.”

Mark your papers.
TIME TO VOTE!

If you marked “yea,” raise your hand.

If you marked “nay,” raise your hand.
TIME TO VOTE!

Did the bill pass?
The government will give titles of nobility to some citizens.

Hey! Who made her Queen?

Dunno! Better look at the four factors...
FACTOR #1

Does Congress have the power to grant titles of nobility?

Is “granting titles of nobility” on the list of Congress’s powers?

A. Yes
B. No
C. Absolutely not!!
FACTOR #1

Does Congress have the power to grant titles of nobility?

The Constitution specifically says that “no title of nobility shall be granted by the United States.”
FACTOR #1

Does Congress have the power to grant titles of nobility?

Mark your papers!
FACTOR #2

In your opinion, should Congress grant titles of nobility?

Mark your papers!
FACTOR #3

Would your political party support granting titles of nobility?

Look at the checklist of values on your handout.

Do any of the values match the purpose of this bill?
FACTOR #3

Would your political party support granting titles of nobility?

No!

Neither party would support this bill. It’s just plain un-American!
FACTOR #4

Would your voters support granting titles of nobility?

Since not everyone would get a special title, do you think most voters would support this?

Mark your papers!
You’ve looked at all four factors. Now you must weigh them all and decide—

WAIT!
There is one factor that matters more than all the rest. Which one is it?

A. Congress’s power
B. Your personal opinion
C. Political party support
D. What your voters think
Would a bill clearly against Congress’s power even make it to a vote?

A. Probably
B. Probably not
If this bill did come to a vote, would YOU vote yea or nay?

Mark your papers.