Bill Writing Tips

What We Look For in Serious Legislation

• Controversial, but non-offensive ideas that will entice debate among the body.
• Bills or resolutions that relate to current hot-button issues, both on a national and local stage
• Bills that are Oklahoma centric, with attention on aspects that may not be currently be debated
  o Check out websites such as okhouse.gov, oksenate.gov, governor.ok.gov, newsok.com
• Issue saliency is crucial. Nobody wants to debate a bill on an issue they do not understand.
• Ideas that we can be proud to send onward to the state legislators

What We Look For in Not-so-Serious Legislation

• Good wit will always win over slap-stick humor.
• Think about doing bills or resolutions that take a funny spin to a serious topic, but in a non-offensive way.
• Creativity is the key to having successful funny legislation.

Overall Tips

• Keep it short (less than two pages) and make sure it is well thought out.
• Avoid internal legislation.
• Make sure the bill is in the correct format and the title works with the bill.
• Try a resolution! Not everything we pass has to be an Act. Get a Senator on board for a Joint Resolution
• Ask your chair or other officers for help. That is what they are there for.

Possible Bill topics

• Look at old bill packets for topic ideas
• http://100ideasok.org: Click on “Ideas”. There are hundreds of topics that could be potential bill ideas.

Bill Topics to Avoid

• Anything offensive
• Abortion related bills are far too divisive and will likely not be heard.