

CANADA'S NEXT TOP LAW



Have you ever thought that something should be illegal...that there should be consequences for certain activities? Canada's Next Top Law is designed to encourage participants to think about the legislative process in Canada, and the need to have rules which balance peoples' interest with community interests.

YOUR PROPOSAL

Your proposal should include the following steps. Space to complete your answers is on the back of this page.

STEP 1 Narrow the Issue

Brainstorm 3-5 things you believe are contrary to the interests of a vibrant society?

STEP 2 What is the Problem?

Select the ONE that you think requires a good new law .

STEP 3 What is your Proposal?

Submit a law to solve a community problem! Where does your Bill fit? Is it a criminal law, a municipal law, consumer protection, family etc? If your Bill is a criminal offense, include the Mens Rea and Actus Reus. Include an example of a violation of your crime. Provide an example of a violation of your crime.

STEP 4 What are the Penalties?

If someone offended your law, what range of consequences should result? You do not just have to stick to fines and imprisonment (however ensure the punishment is reasonable, related to your offence and in order with the Charter – nothing cruel or unusual – see s. 12 of the Charter).

STEP 5 Rational justification (you must justify your new Bill)

a. Explain WHY you want this Bill in place.

TIP References to outside sources may strengthen your argument

b. Discuss and reference how this Bill is impacted by the Charter.

TIP Remember section 1 allows laws that infringe Charter rights – “reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.”

c. Discuss and reference how this Bill fits into the reasons for criminal law and the tensions between them, namely: moral prohibition, harm prevention, order in society, deterrence, punishment (if applicable).

Think you have **Canada's Next Top Law**? Share your proposal with the Ontario Justice Education Network. Visit ojen.ca.

BUILDING YOUR PROPOSAL

STEP 1: **NARROW THE ISSUE**

STEP 2: **WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**

STEP 3: **WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSAL?**

STEP 4: **WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES?**

STEP 5: **WHAT ARE THE RATIONAL JUSTIFICATIONS?**

