



<b>Title:</b> Persuasion POWER!	
<b>Author:</b> Allyson Goodin Wynne High School Wynne	
<b>Course:</b> Social Studies	<b>Duration:</b> 1 to 2 class periods
<b>Grade:</b> 9-12	
<b>Objective:</b> Students will research and evaluate current legislation concerning energy. Students will discuss the process that a bill must go through to become a law.	
<b>Summary of Lesson:</b> Students will research, analyze and evaluate current material related to Congress and then write a persuasion piece.	
<b>Standards:</b> Common Core State Standards, Arkansas State Frameworks	
<b>CODE</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>
SG 8 CCC1	Discuss the legislative branch of the government at the federal and state levels: purpose, organization, authority, function
CCSS ELA-Literacy SL 5.5	Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.
CCSS ELA-Literacy W 11-12 2b	Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
<b>Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS):</b> 1d: Demonstrating knowledge of resources, 2c: Managing classroom procedures, 2e: Organizing physical space, 3b: Using questioning/prompts and discussion, 3c: Engaging students in learning	
<b>Instructional Strategies and Practices:</b> Summarizing and note taking, technology, visuals	
<b>Bloom's Level:</b> Highest Level Only Evaluate	

**Materials and Resources:**

- Computer
- Internet connection
- Student Handout 1 Bellringer Activity
- Student Handout 2 Student Research
- Websites:

[www.AIPRO.org](http://www.AIPRO.org)

[www.youthleadership.net](http://www.youthleadership.net)

[www.blabberize.com](http://www.blabberize.com)

**Formative Assessment:**

Questions and answers, student research handout, project evaluation rubric

**Notes to Teacher:**

Students should be familiar with Congress and its function in our government. In addition to the AIPRO website a great resource is [www.YouthLeadership.net](http://www.YouthLeadership.net). On that site there is an ECONGRESS section that is a wonderful tool. For this lesson the students will need the internet and computers. It may be done with a 1:1 ration of student:computer or it may also be completed in small groups if so desired. This small group arrangement would allow stronger readers to be paired with others who need support in reading.

**Student Activity****Bellringer work and handout.**

1. Pass out the Bellringer activity (**Student Handout 1**) to every other student as they enter the room and have the students partner together. (You can control the partners and ensure that the strong readers are mixed with the non-readers.) The partners will read the article and highlight/or underline the main topic of each paragraph. Then discuss the article as a whole group. At this time, if necessary, you may discuss the fact that members of Congress serve on multiple committees that focus on a particular subject matter for legislation and that most bills never make it out of committee.

Students must have prior knowledge of Congress and how members are elected and how a bill becomes a law. ECongress can be used as a tutorial for a homework assignment or in class reading if so desired. This is a great site and also has its own printable study guide sheets.

2. Now pass out the Student Research Handout (**Student Handout 2**) and have the students access computers or use their cellphones as your school policy allows. Students should complete the handout and then choose one of the project assignments to complete.



**Student Handouts:** (Printable copies of the handouts are available at: <http://www.arkansasenergyrocks.com/educators/index.html>. (Select Curriculum, then 9-12 Lesson Plan – student handouts accompany each lesson plan.)

**Student Handout 1  
Persuasion Power  
Bellringer Activity**

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

With a partner read the following article from the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee. Highlight or underline the main idea/topics from each paragraph. Be ready to discuss the article with the entire class when time is called.

Consumers Desperate for New Natural Gas Pipelines  
*February 5, 2014*

As Winter Storm Nika is wreaking havoc across much of the nation today, families and businesses are turning up the heat to stay warm. And despite America's abundant energy supplies, many consumers are facing unusually high energy costs this winter, particularly across New England. Old Man Winter is not the only culprit responsible for the recent surge in prices, as much of the blame also lies in our country's inadequate energy infrastructure. Our ability to move American natural gas supplies to homes and manufacturers has been held back by pipeline constraints.

New Hampshire's Concord Monitor summed up this problem and its effects on the region's economy in a recent editorial, "Wanted: new natural gas pipelines." The editors wrote, "The handful of pipelines serving the region are too few and too small to move as much gas as the region needs when temperatures plummet. By law, and common sense, residential users who heat and cook with natural gas get first dibs when supplies are short. That leaves little for the utility industry, manufacturers and other big users. That has to change. ... The high cost of energy is strangling New Hampshire's economy. It's preventing the return of manufacturing, which is creating good jobs in states where costs are lower, and it's taking a fortune out of the pockets of consumers, whose spending is needed to keep Main streets healthy. ..." –

During the Weekly Republican Address, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) urged the president to work with Congress in a bipartisan fashion to help build the infrastructure that is desperately needed to deliver affordable and reliable energy to American homes and factories. He stated, "The president talked about how natural gas production is good for our economy and for our jobs. We couldn't agree more. And in a bitterly cold winter, in my home state of Michigan and across much of the nation, where the demand for electricity is high and heating bills even higher, the time is ripe for action. But our



infrastructure has not kept pace, which is why we must build an Architecture of Abundance to help create jobs today and keep energy affordable tomorrow.” – Chairman Upton highlighted the House-passed H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, which will help get natural pipelines in the ground quicker by cutting red tape and modernizing the permitting process. A broad coalition of groups representing American workers, job creators, and consumers support the commonsense legislation. The New England Ratepayers Association stated, “The ratepayers of New England desperately need more access to natural gas. H.R. 1900 will streamline the permitting process, reduce current inefficiencies and ultimately lead to greater natural gas pipeline infrastructure in the region.” With support from the Senate and the president, America could achieve real progress toward building the Architecture of Abundance and provide relief from high energy prices while encouraging job creation and new investment. - See more at: <http://energycommerce.house.gov/press-release/consumers-desperate-new-natural-gas-pipelines#sthash.rvvRRx57.dpuf>

**Student Handout 2**  
**Persuasion Power**  
**Student Research**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the internet to research and analyze information in order to answer the following questions. Go to the website [www.AIPRO.org](http://www.AIPRO.org) then go to “Programs” dropdown box. Select Advocacy; then click on the link to AIPRO’s online Advocacy Center. Under “Action Tools” select “Government 101” or go directly to:

[http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?g=aiproaction&content=government\\_info&parent=bipac](http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?g=aiproaction&content=government_info&parent=bipac)

Read the section on “How a Bill Becomes a Law,” then answer the following question:

1. How do they designate one bill from another and how do they name these pieces of legislation?

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2. Why is the control of the political party numbers in the chamber, whether the House or the Senate, so important?

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3. What is a filibuster and what impact can it have on the legislation?

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4. What happens to a bill if it does not pass through both chambers?

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5. Describe the president's options when a bill comes to his desk from the Congress.

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Turn this in when completed, and then begin the project assignment on the following page.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT Assignment.**

**Choose one of the following projects to complete. Due date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project 1:** Choose one of our current Arkansas Senators or Representatives in Washington D.C. and read the section in "GOVERNMENT 101" from the AIPRO.org website. Look under "Helpful Tips" for the section Tips on Writing to Your Elected Officials.

Now write a letter to your chosen government official persuading them to vote for or against a current piece of legislation related to energy in America. You will use [www.Thomas.gov](http://www.Thomas.gov) to help you find a current piece of legislation and cite the specific name and assigned bill number as a reference in your letter. (For example: H.R. 555 Improving Pipeline Safety Regulations)

The letter should be at least 3 typed paragraphs and be in a business appropriate format with the current Washington D.C. address for the legislator. (You may want to refer to the ECONGRESS unit on the [www.youthleadership.net](http://www.youthleadership.net) website under the letter writing guide as a resource.)

Print this letter and sign your name. Turn this in for a grade and then this will be mailed to your chosen legislator.

**Project 2:** Choose one of the current members of Congress representing Arkansas. Look at recent pieces of legislation and how your chosen official voted on these issues.

Investigate and research items on the legislator's personal website with past interviews and articles that would indicate this person's stance on the future of the energy industry in America.



Now write a new short speech that your member of Congress would deliver to registered voters in Arkansas to encourage them to support this stance.

Next you will need to go to the internet and find a “headshot”, or close up picture of your candidate. Save this photo and go to the website [www.blabberize.com](http://www.blabberize.com). You will create a free account and upload this picture of your candidate. Follow the directions to create a moveable mouth on your candidate’s photo. Now simply record your voice reading the speech so that it appears that your candidate is delivering your speech. Save this work and be ready to present this to the class/group/teacher.