

# STUDENT CONGRESS: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE



**I'm just a bill:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKiag&safety\\_mode=true&persist\\_safety\\_mode=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKiag&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1)



# STUDENTS AND DEBATE COACHES LIKE THE SC FORMAT BECAUSE:

- It lets students debate material that they've written themselves, on topics that concern them
- It gives students knowledge
- It forces students to prepare arguments for both sides of a topic
- It introduces students to the practices of the U.S. Legislature



# BEFORE STUDENT CONGRESS MEETS

- Students split into 4  
**committees**

Each committee writes and  
submits a bill to bring to  
congress for voting.



# PUBLIC WELFARE

- Public Welfare: deals with social issues on the national scale
- Examples: legalizing marijuana, instating a draft, legalizing gay marriage



# FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Foreign Affairs: deals with relationships between the US and other countries
  - Examples: the U.S should pull out troops in the Middle East; the U.S. should send aid to Africa



# ECONOMIC

- Economic: deals with income, debt, and deficit of goods, services, and the government
- Examples: the U.S should increases taxes on alcohol and cigarettes ; the U.S. should increase spending on Education





# STATE AND LOCAL

- State and Local: deals with social and economic issues within MN, Anoka County, or Andover
- Examples: MN should ban smoking in all public places; Andover should build more business complexes to bring in revenue



# BILL FORMAT

- Each bill should be at least 10 lines focusing on what the current problem is and what your bill will do to remedy the situation





# STUDENT CONGRESS SESSION: YOU ARE GRADED ON...

- Eloquence
  - speak powerfully and clearly, correctly use appropriate vocabulary, emphasize main points.



# SPEECHES: CRITERIA CONT.

- Logic
  - A debater should explain his/her points well and sway the audience toward the speakers beliefs on the subject.
  - A debater should use EVIDENCE to prove his/her point




# SPEECHES: CRITERIA CONT.

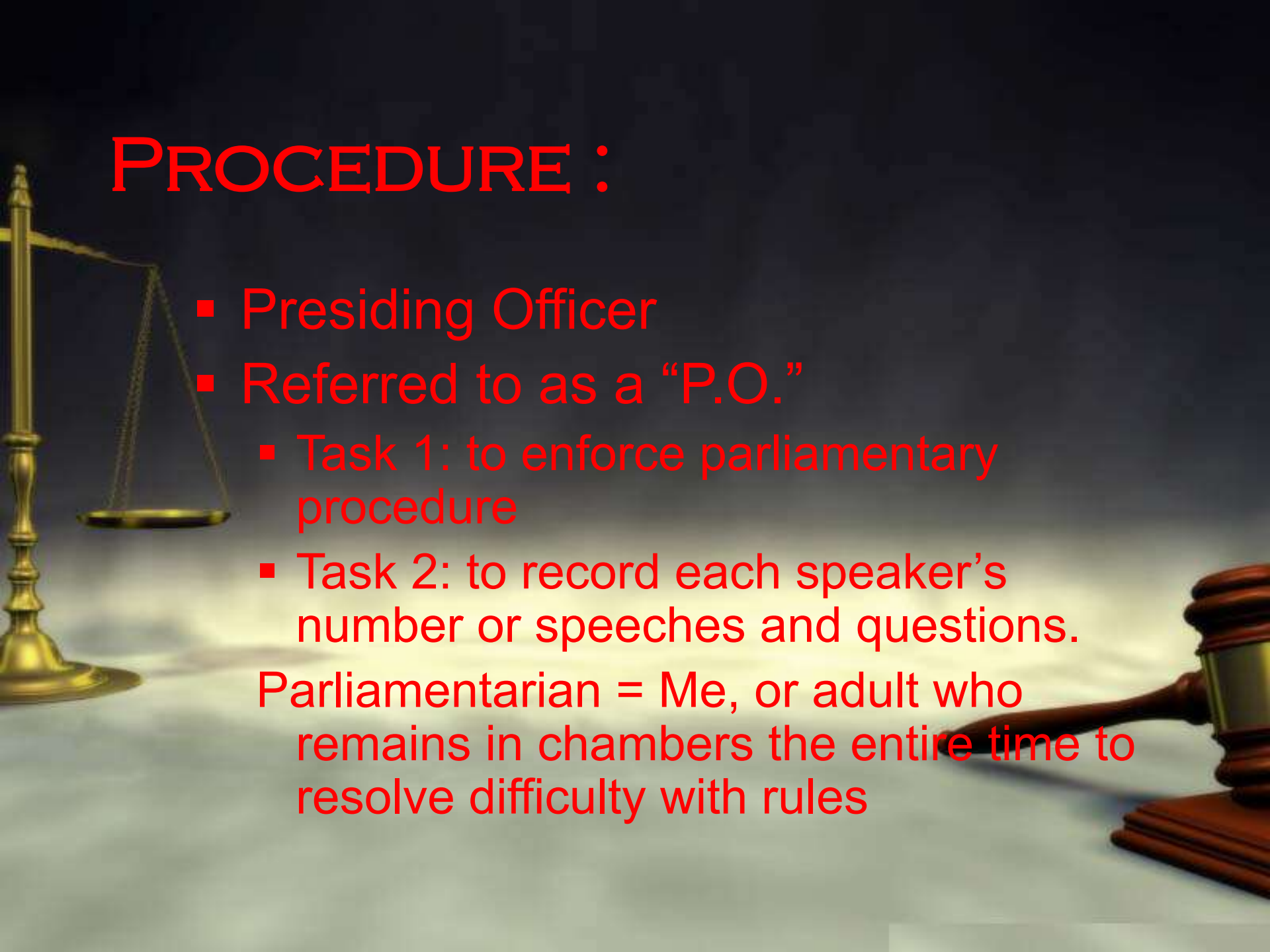
- Organization:
  - The speaker should think about what they say before they say it, and their speech organization should be clear



# SPEECHES: CRITERIA CONT.

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- Extemporaneity:
    - Although a speaker may use notes when delivering his/her speech, the less reading the better.
    - Pre-written speeches on a bill are referred to as canned speeches and are considered cheating on a competitive level.

# PROCEDURE :

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- Presiding Officer
  - Referred to as a “P.O.”
    - Task 1: to enforce parliamentary procedure
    - Task 2: to record each speaker's number or speeches and questions.

Parliamentarian = Me, or adult who remains in chambers the entire time to resolve difficulty with rules

# PROCEDURE CONT.

- Parliamentary Procedure:
  - Uses *Robert's Rules of Order*
    - Guided by motions by students, who rise and say “motion” to get the attention of the P.O.
    - The P.O. is in charge of the general flow, acknowledging motions, conducting votes, and general running of the chamber





# PROCEDURE CONT.

- Authorship
  - If your bill passes committee and makes it to Student Congress, you must give an introductory speech laying out the main arguments for the bill.
  - Unlike any other speech, this is the **ONLY** speech that can be pre-written



# PROCEDURE CONT.

- Debate time...
  - After the authorship of a bill, the P.O. calls for a speech in opposition to the bill.
  - Speeches are given back and forth, pro->con->pro->con until the topic is exhausted.
    - These speakers and the order of these speakers are on a volunteer basis but must be “given the floor” by the P.O.

# PROCEDURE CONT.

- “Motion to lay a bill on the table”= end debate on a bill
- “Motion to take a bill from the table” = re-start debate on a bill
- “Motion to previous question” = vote to pass or fail a bill. (If majority votes, bill is done, if not, more speeches take place)



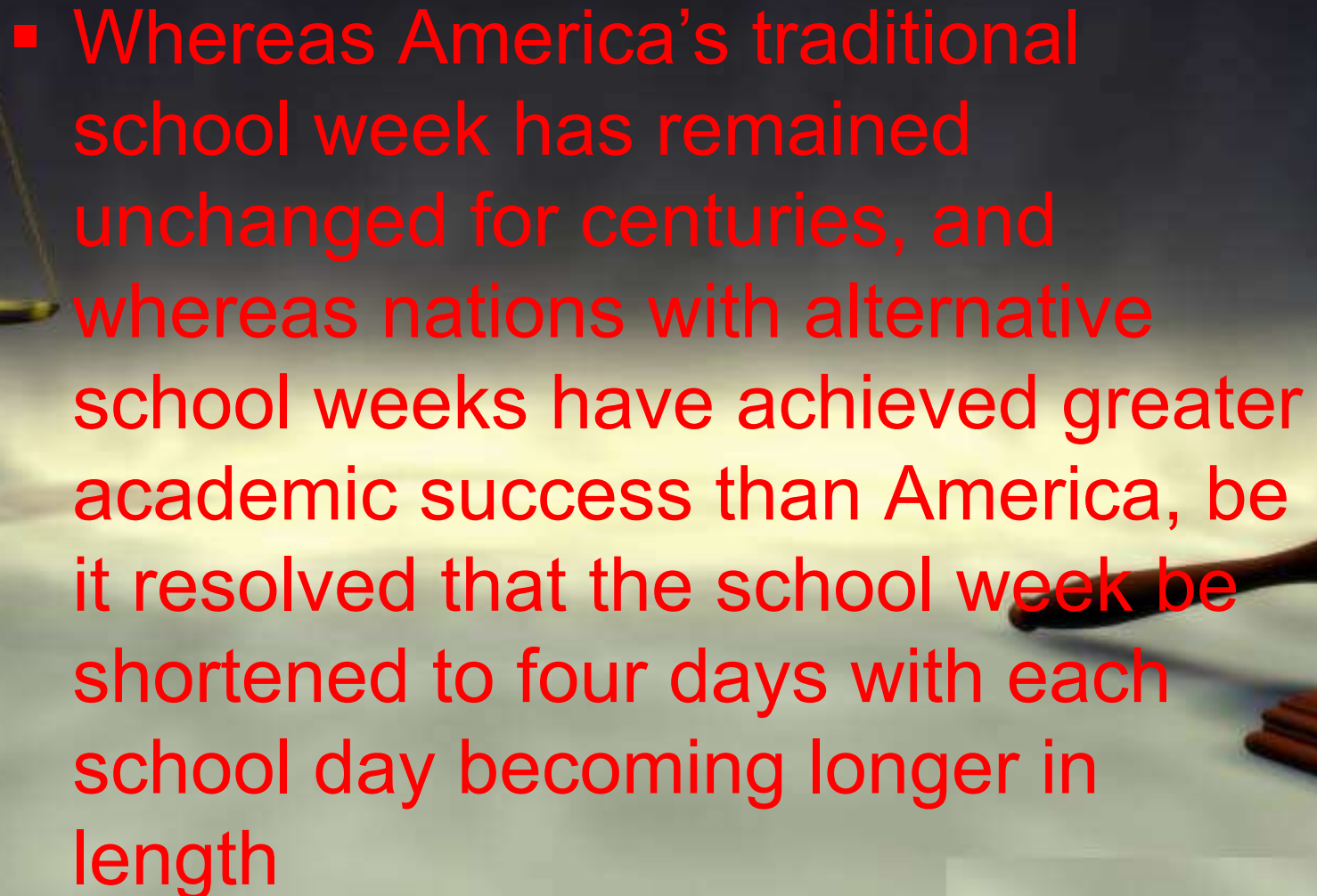
# PROCEDURE CONT.

- Conclusion

- After Previous Question has been called and the bill is voted on, the P.O. announces whether or not a 2/3 vote has been reached, which is required to pass any bill.
- The P.O. will then entertain motions to adjourn or recess, which is seconded and passes. The speakers exit.

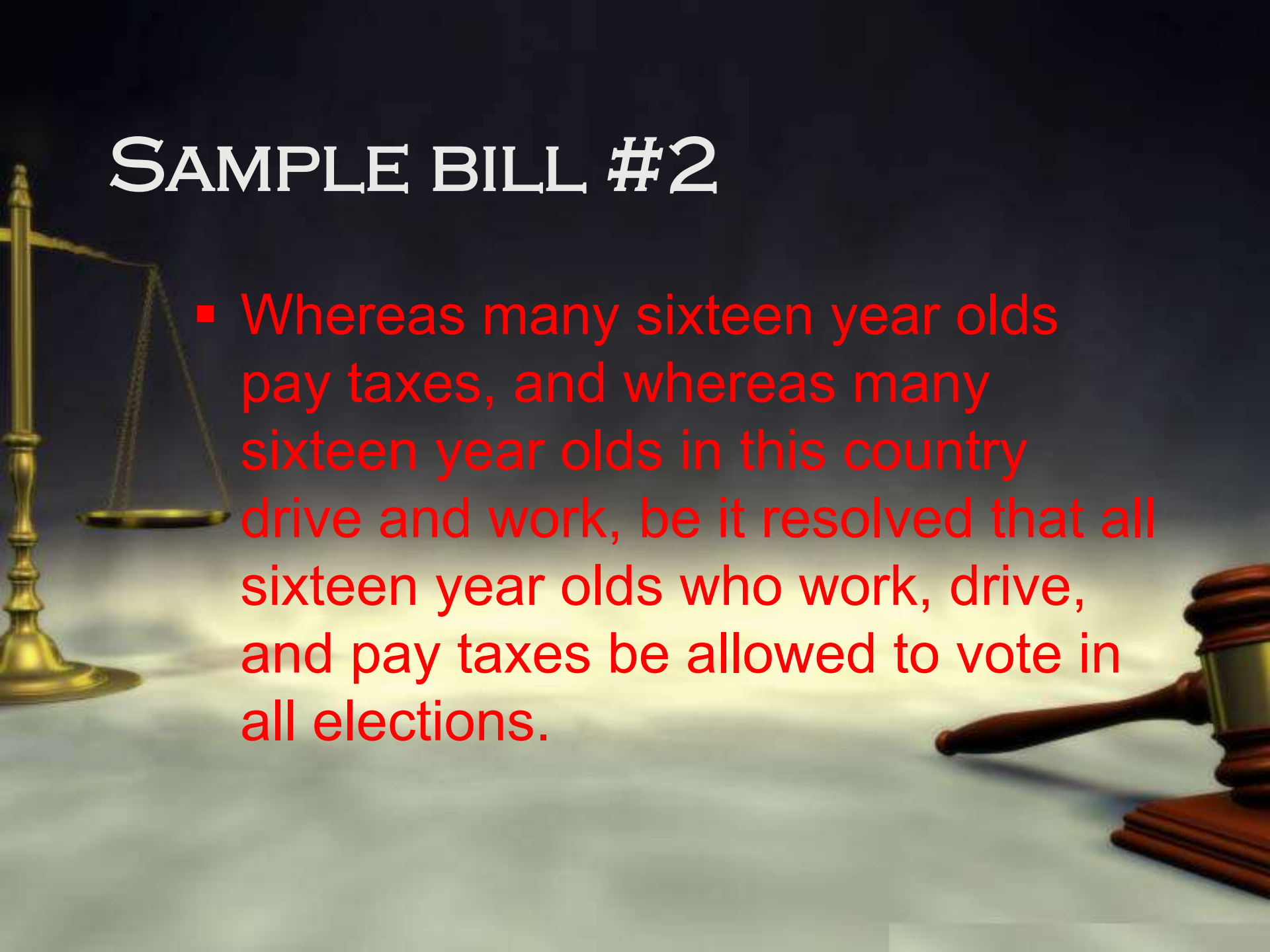


# SAMPLE BILL # 1

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- Whereas America's traditional school week has remained unchanged for centuries, and whereas nations with alternative school weeks have achieved greater academic success than America, be it resolved that the school week be shortened to four days with each school day becoming longer in length



# SAMPLE BILL #2

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- Whereas many sixteen year olds pay taxes, and whereas many sixteen year olds in this country drive and work, be it resolved that all sixteen year olds who work, drive, and pay taxes be allowed to vote in all elections.