

How to Write a Resolution

The whole week of programming at Nevada Girls State is set up to take us to a mock legislative session. Throughout the week, we'll work together to craft legislation about issues that are important to you. In order to make this process move along as smoothly as possible, we ask all our delegate to come prepared with a resolution.

DON'T PANIC! This document will help you get started and the staff will help you refine your resolution during the session.

We want your experience to be as close to how things really work as possible. In order to make this happen, there are a few rules on what topics can be addressed at Nevada Girls State:

- **Only issues that can be addressed at the state level.**
Because this is NEVADA Girls State, all topics must be at the state level. What does this mean? Some topics can't be legislated by the State because they are outside of its jurisdiction, notably those that are strictly local issues (such as zoning) and those that are strictly federal issues (such as Yucca Mountain).
- **All resolutions must abide by the Nevada Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.**
The Nevada Constitution and the Constitution of the United States are the governing documents for our legislature and so we abide by them as well. This means that legislation can't seek to do such things as establish a religion for Nevada or limit freedom of the press (because freedom of religion and freedom of the press are protected by the U.S. Constitution). For this reason, we don't allow resolutions that seek to regulate abortion, because this is protected by the Nevada Constitution.
- **Resolutions can't duplicate existing laws.**

If your resolution doesn't comply with one or more of these rules, don't worry – the staff WILL help you to work out the kinks.

Let's get started!

Features of a Girls State Resolution

- A **PREAMBLE**, which states the purpose of the resolution
- **WHEREAS** clauses, which each give one (1) reason why this resolution is needed. (You may include as many WHEREAS clauses as you need to give the reasons for supporting your resolutions, as long as they're relevant.)
- A **RESOLVED** clause, which states the final objective.

Formatting

The following shows you how to format each element of your resolution. You'll need to use this **exact** working and punctuation. Portions in *italics* will be what you write.

- **Your first and last name at the top of the page**
- **Single-spaced**
- **The first line of each resolution will start with:**
Memorializes the 2017 session of the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that will...
(This is then followed by your PREAMBLE.)
- **Each WHEREAS clause (except the last one) will be formatted like this:**
WHEREAS, *(one reason for why this legislation is need)*; and
- **The final WHEREAS clause will be formatted like this:**
WHEREAS, *(your final reason for why this legislation is need)*; therefore, be it
- **The RESOLVED clause will be formatted like this:**
RESOLVED BY THE GIRLS STATE OF NEVADA, assembled in Carson City on (Date), 2015, that the 2017 Session of the Nevada Legislature is hereby memorialized to enact legislation that will... *(Restate the purpose of your resolution.)*

An Example Resolution

The following resolution was written and passed during our 2014 session.

Memorializes the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that will mandate vision and hearing tests for elementary school children to ensure that parents are aware of problems that affect their child's learning.

WHEREAS, Children and their parents often do not realize that the child has these problems; and

WHEREAS, Students who start to heavily focus on reading in third and fourth grade will have many problems comprehending the text if they cannot see properly; and

WHEREAS, Elementary students who have hearing problems and cannot hear directions or warnings well can be in danger; and

WHEREAS, Children who have visual and/or hearing difficulties may feel alienated from children without difficulties; and

WHEREAS, If the problem is identified, children will prosper and have a higher self esteem; and

WHEREAS, School nurses shall be trained in identifying and testing for vision and hearing problems; and

WHEREAS, Students who receive hearing aids and/or glasses can then get help, which can bring these students who are behind back up to grade-level standards; therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE GIRLS STATE OF NEVADA assembled in Carson City on July 3, 2014 that the 2015 session of the Nevada legislature is hereby memorialized to enact legislation to mandate vision and hearing tests for elementary school children.

To Help You Get Started

Remember, you only have to use as many "WHEREAS" clauses as you need. If you need more, just attach another page.

Memorializes the 2017 session of the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that will

WHEREAS, _____

_____ ; and

WHEREAS, _____

_____ ; and

WHEREAS, _____

_____ ; and

WHEREAS, _____

_____ ; therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE GIRLS STATE OF NEVADA assembled in Carson City on July 1, 2016 that the 2017 session of the Nevada legislature is hereby memorialized to enact legislation to
