



## Elementary/Secondary Social Studies Academic Circles

### Topic: Law Making

<b>Purpose</b>	To create a fun way for adults to help their students learn Social Studies while working at home.
<b>Materials</b>	A small object or an item of sentimental value that will be the Talking Piece. Will need a piece of paper and something to write with for each person in the circle.
<b>Set Up</b>	Arrange everyone in the family to sit together in a circle in a space where nothing is in the middle of the circle
<b>Steps</b>	<p><b>Guidelines</b> Read the Guidelines out loud to your children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is our family learning circle. We are going to learn from each other by speaking from the heart, listening from the heart, say just enough, and trust you know what to say.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Activity</b> This is a fun activity to get started. The leader reads the laws below and asks everyone in the circle to take a step to the middle of the circle if they think the law is true. Leader then reveals the answer to the circle, everyone steps back into their places, and the next law is read to the circle. Repeat until all four are read to the circle.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Crazy laws around the United States</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Indiana, it's illegal to ride your horse faster than 10mph. (TRUE)</li> <li>- It's illegal for Christmas decorations to be up after January 14th in Maine. (TRUE)</li> <li>- It is illegal in Waco, Texas, to throw a banana peel onto the street because a horse could slip. (TRUE)</li> <li>- In West Virginia, Road Kill may be taken home for supper. (TRUE)</li> </ul> <p><b>Round 1</b> Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is a law? And Why do you think we need laws?</li> </ul> <p><b>Round 2</b> Watch the video, "I'm Just A Bill School House Rock" - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKiag">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKiag</a> Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is a law called before it becomes a law?</li> </ul> <p><b>Round 3</b> Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why do you think most bills die in the Committee Process?</li> </ul> <p><b>Round 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both the House and Senate have to pass the Bill. Why do you think our government was set up this way? Why do you think a law needs to be approved by two different chambers of Congress?</li> </ul> <p><b>Round 5</b> Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the final step in the lawmaking process?</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing:</b> Have each person in the circle imagine themselves as a Lawmaker. Have each person tell a law that they would create that would help someone they know. Encourage creativity and encourage each person to add detail why they would create the law.</p>
<b>Notes</b>	