

Requests bills and government decisions

Lesson 1 Model a request

Read the Hypatia card and original. Here is a worked explanation: The Hypatia Women's Club wrote to U.S. Senator Frank P. Flint on February 5, 1910. It asked that an existing government permission not be revoked. The words "be not revoked" show the requested action. Flint is a senator, but this letter does not say he had sole power over the permit. It records the club's request and arguments, not a new law or a completed water project.

Try together with the Graffort Club

1. The letter is addressed to Gallinger. Find the two different requested actions in its final resolution. For each, name the officials or institution asked to act. Explain why naming only Gallinger leaves out part of the request.

Write or sketch your explanation

2. A learner says: "The club adopted a resolution, so Congress revoked the permit." Explain what the document actually establishes and what the learner has assumed.

Write or sketch your explanation

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Lesson 2 Model document status

Compare the bill card and the Act card. The August image calls itself “A BILL” and records introduction and printing. The December source is the official approved Act. Both use formal enacting wording. The words alone do not show passage. The Act grants specified rights; section 2 requires map filing and approval before permanent construction begins on the land.

3. Use one detail from each card to explain their different status. What would be wrong with saying that everything shown on the first bill page necessarily became law unchanged?

Write or sketch your explanation

4. Draw or describe the steps stated in section 2 before permanent construction may begin. Name the official with the approval role. Does the Act prove that these steps were completed on December 19? Explain.

Write or sketch your explanation

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Explain a connection without inventing a cause

5. Put the Graffort letter, the proposed-bill image and the approved Act in date order. Give the action or status of each. These documents belong to a shared dispute; the dates do not prove a petition caused the law.

Write or sketch your explanation

6. A writer says: "The club asked for public-land protection, and the law has conditions, so the club caused those conditions." What additional evidence would you seek before making that claim? Name the kind of record and the connection it would need to show.

Write or sketch your explanation

7. Hypatia claims no other sufficient pure-water supply was available. Does the letter alone verify that claim? Explain what it shows and name useful additional evidence.

Write or sketch your explanation
