

## HMDC Elementary Model Congress Class (Fall 2024)

September 7, 2024 to December 14, 2024 (14 Sessions)

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### Course Description:

In HMDC Model Congress for Elementary Students, children will learn how government works by playing the roles of senators and representatives. This course will develop important skills such as critical thinking, confident speaking, negotiation, and teamwork. Each week, students will research topics, participate in debates, and collaborate on solving problems. They will learn to respect others' viewpoints and see issues from different perspectives, promoting empathy and understanding. Through these activities, students will gain self-confidence and improve their communication skills. This course also emphasizes 21st-century skills like leadership and collaboration, preparing students for future success in academics and beyond.

#### Instructor Information:

Bill Eddy aka "Coach Bill"

[billeddy@gmail.com](mailto:billeddy@gmail.com)

WeChat: Wxid\_powf8axr4e22 (Bill Eddy)

#### General Information (Pacific Time – Los Angeles):

Day & Time: Saturdays, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Starts: Saturday, September 7th (Ends: December 14th) = 14 Meetings.

Homework: <https://21stcenturyresearch.cn/class-elementary-model-congress-fall-2024/>

Note: Please bookmark this homework page!

#### Online Meetings Using "Zoom"

Model Congress Class (Fall 2024):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88412927310?pwd=xmDujugscwqnSbaIKlvyjxqf3txNYm.1>

Password = Already included in the above link (so, no password is needed).

#### Class Expectations

- We must be respectful not just to the teachers but to each other.
- Cameras remain on with face being fully visible (mic off unless speaking).
- Please arrive prepared with enough energy to give a speech if called upon to do so.
- Homework will be limited so as not to interfere with your existing workload.
- *We are speaking and debating every session* - students are encouraged to bring fun topics to class.  
IMPORTANT: If someone is speaking everyone is listening; it's about showing respect.

#### Textbook/Handbook:

Debate Textbook: None. This is primarily a 'doing' course - most of the learning comes from the activities designed to build thinking, speaking, and collaboration skills.

Student Handbook (PDF): <https://21stcenturyresearch.cn/> (will be sent to parents via email).

#### Materials Needed:

Electronic device (using a PC/Laptop is highly preferred).

Writing Utensils, & Paper (Students may be asked to take some written notes).

#### Key Concept of the Course

This course focuses on developing skills in critical thinking, confident speaking, and respectful collaboration. We believe in our ability to express ourselves clearly and confidently. We aim to be problem-solvers who advocate for our beliefs and show respect for others, even when they disagree. Understanding how government works and learning to negotiate and collaborate are essential for success and leadership. Respect for ourselves and others is fundamental in every discussion and decision we make.

#### Sample Research Topics

Week 01: Improving K-12 Education

Week 02: Increasing Environmental Protection

Week 03: Protecting Against Artificial Intelligence

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### COURSE SYLLABUS (Continued...)

#### General Plan for the Course

This course is about learning by doing. Most learning will come from participating in Model Congress activities and using research. Much of the research will be provided, but extra reading can help. Debates and negotiations can be intense, so it's important to show respect and kindness, especially to those nervous about public speaking. We will engage in Model Congress activities in every session, starting with simple topics. Research topics will be given in advance. The first month will focus on learning Model Congress skills, then we will use those skills in full simulations. By the end of the course, we will be ready to participate in Model Congress sessions confidently.

**IMPORTANT:** Students must come prepared to speak and debate. There will be reading and writing assignments due at the start of each meeting, except for the first one. These assignments are needed to join in the activities. Only parents can excuse a student from homework (must inform teachers in advance!).

#### Technology and Communication

Let's help make the course enjoyable for everyone. Show up prepared and keep the camera on at all times (unless the teacher gives special permission). Check that the camera, microphone, and speakers are working properly before each class. Do not wait until the last moment to do homework assignments. Notify the teacher right away if there are trouble accessing learning materials or if emails are not received.

#### Class Schedule and Topics

##### **Government & Procedure**

Week 1 (Sept. 7): Students learn about government (Executive, Legislative, & Judicial), and what each branch does; preparing them for government simulations throughout the course.

Week 2 (Sept.14): Students learn parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rules) and how a bill becomes a law.

Week 3 (Sept.21): Students practice following parliamentary rules and procedure and holding a mock Congress session as well as some of the motions and procedures used in court by conducting a mock trial.

##### **Writing Legislation & Speeches**

Week 4 (Sept.28): Students will learn how to write clear and strong bills and resolutions.

Week 5 (Oct. 5): Students will practice writing and giving speeches in front of others.

Week 6 (Oct.12): Students will learn how to speak persuasively and answer questions from others.

##### **Effective Collaboration & Negotiation**

Week 7 (Oct.19): Students learn the importance of working as a team and do activities to build those skills.

Week 8 (Oct.26): Students will learn basic ways to negotiate, or talk things out, to reach agreements.

Week 9 (Oct.2): Students continue practicing skills of negotiating, or discussing, to solve problems together.

##### **Model Congress Practice Sessions (No Meeting on November 30, 2024)**

Week 10 (Nov. 9): Students take part in full Model Congress simulations to better develop their skills.

Week 11 (Nov.16): Students continue practicing in Model Congress to get better at their roles.

Week 12 (Nov.23): Students have one last practice session to make sure they are ready for the contest.

[Break (Nov. 30): Thanksgiving is a major U.S. holiday]

##### **In-Class Contest**

Week 13 (Dec. 7): Students compete in a Model Congress contest to show what they have learned.

Week 14 (Dec.14): Contest continues, winners are announced, and students discuss what they learned.