

2008 Olathe Youth Congress Resolution Packet



To All Youth Congress Participants:

This year all resolutions must be submitted before the General Assembly. We believe this will increase the impact and reinforce that commitment of the youth of Olathe to truly make a difference in our community. Youth Congress can make on Olathe while only asking for a small amount of work be done before the General Assembly. Youth Congress 2008 will be filled with fun and exciting changes. With this packet and maybe some friends you will have all you need to create an awesome and meaningful resolution to present to three hundred of your peers.*

All Resolutions must be received by the Student Development Department no later than Friday, October 3rd. Resolutions can be sent through email, interschool mail, or hand delivered.

*All Resolutions will be reviewed for approval. If a resolution does not meet the guidelines or is not thoroughly prepared it may not be presented to the General Assembly.

Questions? Contact us at 780-7046 or studentdevelopment@olatheschools.com

Student Development
Department USD 233

Creating a Resolution

Step 1 – Identify

Identify an issue or interest area. The issue could be an existing program or policy that needs to be changed, enhanced, or fixed in some way or it could be the creation of a program or policy. To identify an issue all you have to do is look around your local community for an issue that isn't effectively being addressed (Be sure to look for ways to partner with existing organizations)

A) *An example issue could be the use of Styrofoam lunch trays. You feel the school district should use a more environmentally friendly product for their trays.*

B) *Lets say you want to educate the students of Olathe on a specific issue... say the genocide in Darfur.*

Step 2 – Research

Once you have identified your issue go to the library, get on the internet, pick up a phone, or send an email and become very familiar with the subject. Don't be afraid to contact people with experience or expertise relating to your problem, you might be surprised at their willingness to help. If your goal is to implement change, make sure you find out the process you would have to go through.

A) *The first thing to do is contact the school district's Food Service Department to see if they have investigated other tray options. If they have, ask why they decided to stay with the Styrofoam option. If they haven't, ask how many trays are used annually and how much they cost. Then research other tray materials and their associated costs.*

B) *The first step is to research Darfur: the culture, the people, and the current conflict in the area. Next, look into ways to get that information out to the students. Find a way to make them passionate and interested in the issue.*

Step 3 – Solve

Hopefully your research has provided you with one or multiple **feasible** solutions to your initial issue. If you have multiple solutions, it is in your best interest to pick just the best solution (either the cheapest or most effective).*

A) *In your research you have discovered a single biodegradable tray made from recycled materials that would raise cost by a small percentage. You would now write your resolution and detail in-depth your solution.*

B) *Finally, put your plan into action. Write a resolution and create an awareness campaign.*

*If this was a real resolution that passed General Assembly, the change would still have to be approved by the Olathe School District.

Resolution Outline/Guidelines

Resolution Title

Authored by: Author Name

Challenge: Details the issue/topic. It needs to be short and concise so someone can read this section and get the gist of the resolution (minus the solution).

Background: Gives all applicable background as well as describes any completed groundwork.

Should Include:

- Historical Narrative of the Issue
- Description of Research
- Description of Background Work
- Detail Authorization/Consent of all Parties Involved

Solution: Gives an overview of what to do to fix/improve the issue/topic. Author could offer multiple solutions. This section offers the solution in a broad, narrative format.

Should Include:

- Loose Budget Outline (if applicable)
- Detailed Description of Volunteer Needs
- Detailed Description of Supplies/Equipment
- Description of Space Needed
- List of possible Funding Sources

Action Plan: To some degree repeats the solution but in a clear, concise bulleted format. Lists actions/task to be completed in a chronological step.

Resolution Guidelines

A committee of Olathe Youth Congress officers will review all resolutions. Resolutions failing to meet a minimum level of completeness or feasibility will not appear at the General Assembly. All resolutions must meet the following resolution guidelines.

1. Must include an opportunity for students to participate more than just once a year.
2. Must foster involvement from all students and offer a variety of ways for students to contribute throughout the year(s).
3. Must be feasible and realistic. The resolutions must be able to be fulfilled by the senators who work throughout the year on implementation of resolutions.
4. Cannot consist of only fundraising (fundraising could be a component).
5. Target audience must be local (ie Olathe).

Sample Resolution

Resolution 0809E1

Use of Biodegradable Lunch Trays in Olathe Schools

Authored by: John Smith

Challenge: The lunch trays currently used by the Olathe School District are not biodegradable and are damaging to the environment.

Background: In the last school year (2007-2008) the Olathe Schools District used approximately 1.2 million Styrofoam lunch trays at a cost of \$300,000. After looking at many environmentally friendly tray options including reusable trays and biodegradable trays, it was concluded that biodegradable compostable trays would be the most cost effective. One brand of biodegradable tray would only cost \$310,000 annually at the currently tray usage. Furthermore, the Food Services department would be willing to use a more environmentally friendly product if it would not significantly raise costs.

Solution: Olathe Youth Congress will encourage and lobby the Olathe School District to replace the current Styrofoam trays with environmentally friendly biodegradable trays at an added cost of \$10,000 annually. The Food Services Department has advised they are willing to seek the additional funds from the Olathe Schools Board in a joint proposal with Olathe Youth Congress.

Action Plan:

- Make sure all lunch tray options have been researched including cost and environmental impact.
- Write report summarizing said research.
- Send report and meet with both the ODS school board, Dr. All, and the Food Services Department.

**All facts and figures are fictitious. Compostable trays would actually increase costs by at least \$300,000 annually.