



## Teacher Instructions:

### Problem Title: **The Holiday Dilemma**

**The Main Problem:** In the United States, there are only ten "national holidays" (in February, for example, Washington's Birthday is one, but Valentines Day is not). You are a Senator who will be reviewing the country's policy for creating national holidays. **What should the criteria be to make a day a "national holiday"?**



### **What makes a day worthy of being a national holiday?**

*Students will investigate different holidays to determine the common characteristics. They will consider the benefits of a national holiday in terms of costs and national pride.*

## Step 1

Review  
Stimulus

**Stimulus Item #1** - "How MLK Day became a holiday (article)

**Stimulus Item #2** - "Push to Make 9/11 a Holiday" (video)

**Stimulus Item #3** - "What Does it Take to Make a Federal Holiday?"

*\*\*Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items*

## Step 2

Classroom  
Discussion

Lead a **class discussion** about issues related to the topic. You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

**Product Option:** Using their notes and in pairs, students must collaborate to choose one celebration that has been submitted to become a national holiday.

- ◆ **Student 1 will create a one-minute speech** to bring before the senate (the class) to convince them to **allow** the new national holiday.
- ◆ **Student 2 will create a one-minute speech** to bring before the senate (the class) to convince them to **block** the new national holiday.

Each student must back up his or her opinion with reasons from the stimulus items. Take 3 volunteer groups to present their arguments to the senate (rest of the class), who will then vote on which motion to pass.

**Extended Response Items:** Have students answer the following questions using the online assessment system. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

1. **Do you think the US should have more or less national holidays? Give two reasons to support your answer.**
2. **What do you think makes a day worthy of being a "national holiday"?**

## Step 3

Student  
Response

*\*\*\*students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers*

*\*\*\*students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers*

## Step 4

Analysis

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards. Results can be analyzed through the online system.