KEY: We all did it Group Members: Michelle Lichtstein, Adriana Pipitone, Camy Baum, Danielle Meyers

Committee of Commerce and Science

**Part 1: Research**

Before a committee of Congress persons presents their bill to the House of Representatives and Senate, they must be well informed about their topic. This requires research. The format attached will allow you to gather your information and present it in an orderly manner.

* Each congressperson is responsible for completing this research packet. There are 8 pages, make sure you complete the ENTIRE packet.
* You must cite all your work!
* At the end you will attach a formal bibliography.
* See individual rubrics for grade point requirements**.**
* This packet should be used as a rough draft of your work and your final product must be submitted in a typed format

**Part I:** **Topic Overview**  AS A GROUP

1. Name and explain your topic

Our topic is animals abuse. Animal abuse is animal cruelty, when someone hurts a animal or does not properly care for animal it is considered animal abuse. Animal abuse is a serious topic that should not be handled so lightly. Even the littlest things are considered animal abuse, even not giving your pet water or food. Sadly, many times people try to hurt pets or other kinds a animals, that's a more serious type of abuse.

1. Why does this topic interest you?

We all care about we care about the animals being hurt. We want all animals to be safe and away for bad conditions . We all don’t want to see all animals being hurt and injuries in animals to make sure all animals are safe. We have dogs and we know there needs. They need that respect that humans get. They all also have emotions like humans

1. What do you think are the current controversies surrounding your topic?

 The current controversies surrounding our topic is that animals are constantly dying, getting hurt, starvation of food and water and have little to no attention/love. In a puppy mill, dogs are often kept in cages with wire flooring that injures their paws and legs and it is not unusual for cages to be stacked in columns. When female breeding dogs reach a point of physical depletion and can no longer reproduce, they are often killed.Because puppy mills focus on profit, dogs are often bred with little regard for genetic quality. Puppy mill puppies are prone to congenital and hereditary conditions including heart disease and blood and respiratory disorders. In addition, puppy mill puppies often arrive in pet stores and in their new homes with diseases or infirmities ranging from parasites to pneumonia. Because puppies are removed from their litter mates and mothers at a young age, they also often suffer from fear, anxiety and other behavioral problems. In google news, they have a story called Mamaroneck bans sale of puppy mill dogs in village. It talks about how it is the first municipality in New York to pass a ban on commercially-bred animals within its borders.

**Part II: Preliminary Research** AS A GROUP

*You must use the Media Center Model Congress Pathfinder to look for research based on your topic. Use sources such as Ebsco Host Points of View, Issues and Controversies, Gail: Opposing View Points to help start your research*

1. What is the history/origin of your topic?

Our topic is puppy mills. Puppy mills first started after world war 2. Many pet store owners realized that if they put cute puppy's in the windows of there store more people would see them and fall in love with them. As that was going on farmers up in pet stores to be sold also started breeding dogs like “cash crops”, to get more money. The dogs that the farmers breed usually end When the demand for pet store puppy's went up, stores started weakening the quality of the care taking of the animals. From this rush many animal foundations starting trying to stop puppy mills and the bad treatment of the animals.

###

1. What are the issues/problems regarding your topic?

Issues and problems regarding animal abuse is that people think abusing animals is fun

and entertaining. This is such a big problem because everyday, people see puppies in the window at puppy mills and instantly fall in love. A lot of people don’t realize that the puppies aren’t as happy and healthy as they sometimes seem. Sometimes the puppies may have something in their eyes, or they might make a whining sound. This can show if a puppy is really happy and healthy. Puppies also can’t speak so they can’t tell you that their sad or if something is wrong. Puppies are happier and healthier when they come from a breeder because at some puppy mills, the puppies aren’t being seen by a vet or not even fed. Puppies need a better lifestyle and live healthier and happier.

**Part III: Narrow your Focus**

1. As a group, which specific issue/problem will you focus on?

 We as a group decided to go deep into puppy mills and focus on how they are hurting animals and treating them poorly. Leaving them days without food or water and no attention. We want to stop it. As it can also hurt yourself besides the animals. Every day it is growing across America, even though volunteers are trying to stop it. Like the ASPCA, going to puppy mills and shutting them down. It’s a serious problem were ready to bring to congress.

1. Create a Preamble for that issue/problem (Write the solution to the problem.)

 To make puppy mills illegal all across America.

**Part IV: Supportive Evidence** EVERY GROUP MEMBER MUST CONTRIBUTE 2 MINIMUM

*Types of evidence could include the following: ~Courts Cases, ~Previous, existing, and/or pending Legislation, ~Statistics #’s (studies, polls/surveys, and research results), ~current events, ~Constitutional Connection (Preamble, 5 Basic Principles, and Amendments)*

1. *Research your case.*
2. *Each time you find a statistic or a relevant piece of information, add it to the chart and categorize it.*
3. *A To find legislation, use Thomas.gov*
4. *C To find current events, use EBSCOhost or Google News search.*
5. *M To find court cases, use Oyez.org*

**Requirement: You MUST include several Statistics and Constitutional Connection (amendments)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevant to your topic** | **Citation** *(use EasyBib--add source as you go)* |
| Court Case | The State of Tennessee vs. Patrica Adkisson -Puppy Mill Operator Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison after years of animal cruelty. February 26 2010  | This is significant to our bill because it shows the consequences to having puppy mills and hurting animals. | "Puppy Mill Operator Sentenced to 10 Years." *RSS*. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2016. |
| Statics | As of 2016 48% of all puppies being sold in puppy mills in the USA were ill when purchased. | That is significant to our bill because it shows the bad care that puppy mills have and that the animals get sick and are not treated for the illness. | "10 Things To Know About Puppy Mills | Facts and Statistics." *Madonna of the Mills A Documentary About Puppy Mills*. N.p., n.d. Web. 23 Feb. 2016. |
| CurrentEvent | Between 2011-2013, in Iowa and North Carolina, state lawmakers are considering legislation that would increase protection for dogs. Legislation is aimed at making it more difficult for the worst of the group – the puppy mills. | This is significant our bill as it shows people all over America want a change for animals.They want puppy mills: The source of commercial breeding to disappear. | "Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills." *Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills*. N.p., Feb.-Mar. 2014. Web. 24 Feb. 2016. <http://www.chicagonow.com/raining-cats-dogs/2014/03/why-the-akc-fights-for-puppy-mills/>. |
| Statics | According to a recent study, nearly 100% of all puppies in pet stores have parasites when they are purchased.  | This is significant to our bill as it shows that all the animals in puppy mills or puppy stores are sick and suffering and could possibly die. | "10 Things To Know About Puppy Mills | Facts and Statistics." *Madonna of the Mills A Documentary About Puppy Mills*. N.p., n.d. Web. 23 Feb. 2016. |
| Constitutional Connection  | The legal system currently considers animals to be "property." If the legal definition of an animal is rightfully amended to recognize that animals feel emotions such as pain. “"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States”  | The thirteenth amendment says that slavery is abolished and in puppy mills puppies are locked in cages and aren’t treated well so the puppies are treated like slaves. | Sundaresan, Balaji. "Maximus and Me." *13th Amendment To Non-Human Animals - Can Animals Be Slaves?* N.p., 26 Jan. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2016. |
| Statics  | In 2003,71% of all animals being abused were pet animals | This is significant to our bill because so many animals are treated with cruelty and nobody is doing anything about it | Evans, Kim Masters. "Breakdown of Animal Abuse Victims, by Type of Animal, 2000-03." *Animal Rights*. Detroit: Gale, 2007. N. pag. Information Plus Reference Ser. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |
| Legislation |  Puppy Protection Act of 2001- Amends the animal welfare act to include among human standards for animal treatment provisions respecting socialization of dogs to facilitate contact with other dogs and people, and breeding initiation and frequency of female dogs. | This helps the topic because it helps animals get better and treated when something happens to them and to give the animals love so they feel happy and will be a nicer animal instead of being vicious. Also when they say that they will allow animals to make contact with each other and breed, that’s also good because it will make their population larger. | "S.1478 - 107th Congress (2001-2002): Puppy Protection Act of 2001." *S.1478*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2016.  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statistics | 48% of puppies being sold in pet stores were ill or incubating an illness at the time of purchase, according to a recent California study. | This is bad because it shows that puppy mills do something bad to the puppies which makes them sick and then puppies can die from being ill. | "H.R.6949 - 110th Congress (2007-2008): Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act." *H.R.6949*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |

**Part V: Opposing Evidence** EVERY GROUP MEMBER MUST CONTRIBUTE 2 MINIMUM

1. *Research your case.*
2. *Each time you find a statistic or a relevant piece of information, add it to the chart and categorize it.*
3. *To find legislation, use Thomas.gov*
4. *To find current events, use EBSCOhost or Google News search.*
5. *To find court cases, use Oyez.org*

**Requirement: You MUST include several Statistics and Constitutional Connection (amendments)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevant to your topic** | **Citation** *(use EasyBib--add source as you go)* |
| Court Case | The Case, *Dogs Abused for Pet Trade,* is about a couple who kept dogs and they did not get charged for animal abuse after they owned a puppy mills and had hurt animals | This is not significant to our topic because it shows that there is leeway when you own a puppy mills. | "Owners of Ohio Puppy Mill Plead Not Guilty to 723 Charges of Animal Cruelty." *Life With Dogs*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |
| Statics  | As of 2015, 10% to 20% of dogs in puppy mills are spayed and neutered., | This is not go for our topic because it shows that dogs in puppy mills get spayed and neutered which can help the dogs in the future. | "PAWS - People Helping Animals." *Buyer Beware: The Problem with Puppy Mills and Backyard Breeders » PAWS*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |
| CurrentEvent | It is ridiculous to make a law against Puppy Mills as their is opposing views. For example, The AKC, ( American Kennel Club), Thinks that the bill to ban puppy mills is crazy.  | This is not significant to our topic as we are trying to prove why we have laws against them. | "Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills." *Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills*. N.p., Feb.-Mar. 2014. Web. 24 Feb. 2016. <http://www.chicagonow.com/raining-cats-dogs/2014/03/why-the-akc-fights-for-puppy-mills/>. |
| Statics  | Every year Since the 21st century, 2.11 million dogs from puppy mills are sold in the U.S.. | This is not significant to our bill as this statistic shows that more puppies are saved from the mills that can treat them poorly, and leave them with despair. | Marshall, Lauren. "Tempe City Council, ASU Students Support Shelter Animals over Puppy Mills." *- The State Press*. The State Press, Jan.-Feb. 2016. Web. 23 Feb. 2016. <http://www.statepress.com/article/2016/02/ban-sale-puppy-mills-tempe-city>. |
| Constitutional Connection  | Dogs at puppy mills are more expensive then anywhere else so the puppy mills make more money. The price could range from $400 to $2000. | This is not significant because puppy mills are getting so much money from dogs that they don’t even treat equally. | Raining Cats and Dogs. "Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills." *Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills*. N.p., 11 Mar. 2014. Web. 24 Feb. 2016. |
| Statics | In 2012, more than 4,000 commercial breeding facilities are licensed to operate in the United States | This is not significant to our bill puppy mills are bad and we need more breeders and less puppy mills.  | Watson, C.D. "Puppy Mill Statistics in 2012 - Petful." *Petful*. N.p., 07 July 2012. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |
| Legislation | Puppy Uniform Act- Amends the animal welfare act to define “retail pet store” as a person that sells an animal directly to the public for use as a pet, and does not breed or raise more than 50 dogs for use as pets during any one-year period. | This is bad because random people are trying to sell animals directly to the public for the use as a pet and doesn’t raise more than 50 dogs for any one-year period. | "H.R.6949 - 110th Congress (2007-2008): Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act." *H.R.6949*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statistics | In 2001-2002, a lot of dogs from the world got collected and went to puppy mills. | This is bad because it shows that puppy mills do something bad to the puppies which makes them sick and then puppies can die from being ill. | "S.1478 - 107th Congress (2001-2002): Puppy Protection Act of 2001." *S.1478*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2016 |

**Part VI: Supportive Arguments**—***Cite your sources***

What are the three main reasons/arguments that support your topic AND choose the best evidence to support those reasons/arguments?

1. **Main Argument**:

Puppies will be healthier with mills gone

Evidence:

* 48% of puppies being sold in puppy mills were ill when purchased.
* Nearly 100% of all puppies in pet stores have parasites when they are purchased.
* Most diseases puppies have in puppy mills are:
* Epilepsy,Heart disease,Kidney disease,Musculoskeletal disorders (hip dysplasia, luxating patellas, etc.),Endocrine disorders (diabetes, hyperthyroidism),Blood disorders (anemia, Von Willebrand disease),DeafnessEye problems (cataracts, glaucoma, progressive retinal atrophy, etc.),Respiratory disorders.
1. **Main Argument**:

 The puppies will be treated with love when we banish puppy mills

Evidence:

* Some puppies from puppy mills don’t get enough love and become really sad and for the rest of their life, the puppies will be lonely and depressed
* When puppies are not treated well, they won’t eat. Dogs that stop eating may be exhibiting emotional distress as well. Depression in dogs can lead to reduced appetite and signal that your dog is looking for more love in his life.
* Some dogs will start to misbehave. Bored dogs might also occupy themselves by chewing on furniture, digging in the garbage can or barking incessantly. If your dog suddenly shows signs of bad behavior, he likely needs some attention.
* Some dogs can gain weight when they don’t get enough attention because they just lay down all day and don’t run around and have fun. This is because dogs are not able to freely use the refrigerator or dial a pizza delivery service. If your dog is overweight, it is a definitely a “you caused it” issue. Giving your dog extra treats should never be a substitute for spending quality time together.
* If your dogs nails are long, you definitely aren’t providing proper care to your pup. A dog who gets walked often, especially on sidewalks, the sidewalks file their nails naturally.
1. **Main Argument**:

 More people will get shelter dogs

Evidence:

* Over one million dogs get adapted from breeders or puppy mills instead of needy shelter dogs
* Shelters will be one of the only options which will lead people to get them more
* Many shelters dogs will die and when people hear about how the dogs were found, more people will get them

**Part VII: Opposing**—***Cite your sources***

What are the three main reasons/arguments opposing your topic AND choose the best evidence to support those reasons/arguments?

1. **Main Argument**:

 People running puppy mills get a lot of money

Evidence:

* The puppies are treated like cash crops
* Puppies at puppy mills usually cost a lot more than a puppy from a breeder
* Puppies aren’t as happy and healthy and treated well as they are from a breeder
* People running a puppy mill make their puppies really expensive, when most of the time, the puppy is unhealthy and unhappy because it is not given proper food, care, and love
1. **Main Argument**:

Puppy mills go by unnoticed

Evidence:

* These mills facilitate unhealthy living conditions, but their cruelty often goes unnoticed because of minimal animal cruelty laws across the country.
* A puppy mill dog may easily be sold through a “middleman.” Often, middlemen are brokers or pet stores.
* Other times, puppy mill dogs are sold directly to customers through the internet, newspaper ads, swap meets, or flea markets.

**Optional: Part VIII: Government Spending**

“To create a new program, the government normally gets the money either by cutting funds to an existing program OR by raising taxes.” The budget has two large spending categories, **mandatory** and **discretionary**. Mandatory spending is required by law on specific programs. After those programs are paid for, the president and Congress may use the remaining money for discretionary spending on programs they choose. Each year, roughly 30 percent of the federal budget is in discretionary spending. (Note-taking format done with your group)

1. Indicate whether your Bill’s spending will be discretionary or mandatory?

Our bill spending is discretionary.

B: Indicate the Department/Agency Budget Source and any other information you may have found that will provide government spending information:

*The executive department/agency that will receive funding for our bill is* Department of Commerce.

*(choose this from the list of executive departments/agencies). We will need $2.3 million from the Huge budget to implement our bill. The money will be used for ,*A team to scout out puppy mills and a 5 mile farm to care for the animals in the puppy mills that cannot find homes with professional care.

**Don’t forget your final Bibliography:** You must cite each section you complete. Attach your formal bibliography to the end of your typed final research. You must have at least five different sources

* "Puppy Mills." *ASPCA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <https://www.aspca.org/animal-cruelty/puppy-mills>.
* "ASPCA Assists Hendry County Sheriff's Office in Seizure of Nearly 100 Dogs from Florida Puppy Mill." *ASPCA*. N.p., 16 Nov. 2015. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <<https://www.aspca.org/about-us/press-releases/aspca-assists-hendry-county-sheriffs-office-seizure-nearly-100-dogs-florida>>.
* "Animal Issues." *PETA Issues*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.peta.org/issues/>>.
* Remitz, Jessica. "History of Puppy Mills - Pet360 Pet Parenting Simplified."*Pet360*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.pet360.com/dog/adoption/history-of-puppy-mills/Mhu9AZxXdk-LScJ2EqlE-w?intcid=LINKART>>.
* Vettese, John. "Speak Outs - Do Animals Have Constitutional Rights?"*Annenberg Classroom*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/speakout/do-animals-have-constitutional-rights>>.
* "Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills." *Why the AKC Fights for Puppy Mills*. N.p., Mar.-Apr. 11. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.chicagonow.com/raining-cats-dogs/2014/03/why-the-akc-fights-for-puppy-mills/>>.
* Watson, C.D. "Puppy Mill Statistics in 2012 - Petful." *Petful*. N.p., 07 July 2012. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.petful.com/animal-welfare/puppy-mill-statistics-2012/>>.
* Rodrigues, Stephen G. "Animal Cruelty and Puppy Mills." N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.hg.org/article.asp?id=27188>>.
* "6 Signs You're Not Giving Your Dog Enough Love - Pet360 Pet Parenting Simplified." *Pet360*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Mar. 2016.