

# Fight for Your Life! (in the Federal Bureaucracy)

You are the proudly appointed head of an independent agency/regulatory commission within the federal bureaucracy. Your agency falls into danger as the President, in preparing his annual budget to Congress, is looking to cut back on federal spending. As one of his options, he is considering slashing your agency/commission's budget by 25%. Your job is to persuade him not to by demonstrating the vital importance of your agency/commission to the public and government interest.

After conducting research into the “ins” and “outs” of your agency, you are to create a product that essentially justifies your agency's existence to the President. Your final product will not only explain the purpose of your agency/commission, but also highlight some of the concrete projects by which you contribute to the functions of government and the general welfare of the people.

## Specifications

### **Team**

You may work in pairs as co-department heads (in which you share the work equally), or you may choose to work alone if you wish.

### **Agency/Commission**

You may select an agency/commission from the provided list, or visit [http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All\\_Agencies/index.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml) to select an alternative.

### **Product**

You may present your defense in a manner of your choosing, provided the product contains the necessary information and presents it in a professional manner. Suggestions include PowerPoint, iMovie, Glogster (a multimedia online poster) etc.

### **Information**

Your project must include the following information about your agency/commission:

- History—When and why was it was created?
- Purpose—What does it aim to accomplish?
- Contributions
  - How does it contribute to the function of government? What is its role within the executive branch?
  - How does it benefit the public, either directly or indirectly?
- Programs
  - Describe at least 2 tangible examples of programs your agency/commission has implemented to enact and enforce policy and their significance.

Project Rubric

\_\_\_\_\_/10 – Information is presented in a way that intends to convince the President of the agency/commission’s importance.

\_\_\_\_\_/15 – The agency/commission’s purpose is clearly and thoroughly described.

\_\_\_\_\_/15 – The agency/commission’s history is clearly explained.

\_\_\_\_\_/25 – The product clearly justifies the agency/commission’s existence by describing its contributions to both the government and the public.

\_\_\_\_\_/20 – The product includes two strong, tangible examples of programs the agency/commission has implemented to enact policy and addresses their significance.

\_\_\_\_\_/15 – Information is presented in a professional format, with few grammar/spelling mistakes.

\_\_\_\_\_/100 – **Total Points**

Suggested Options for Independent Agency/Regulatory Commission:

**Administration for Children and Families**

- Promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities

**CIA**

- Conducts counterintelligence activities and other functions related to foreign intelligence and national security

**U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

- Investigates complaints of discrimination and denial of equal protection of laws

**Consumer Product Safety Commission**

- Aims to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from consumer products by developing and enforcing safety standards, recalling defective products, and researching potentially hazardous products

**Environmental Protection Agency**

- Protects human health and the natural environment by making and enforcing environmental laws

**Endangered Species Committee**

- Recovers and conserves the nation's imperiled species

**The Inter-American Foundation**

- Provides grants to non-governmental and community based programs in Latin America and the Caribbean for innovative, sustainable, and participatory self-help programs

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

- Conducts research and develops programs in the areas of space exploration, satellites, and rocketry

**National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities**

- Supports the arts by funding museums, artists, and arts-related programs for schools and communities

**National Science Foundation**

- Promotes science and engineering through research and education programs

**Office of Elementary and Secondary Education**

- Promotes academic excellence, enhances educational opportunities, and improves the quality of teaching and learning

**Peace Corps**

- Promotes world peace and friendship through understanding and assistance

**U.S. Mint**

- Produces an adequate volume of circulating currency for the nation to conduct trade and commerce

**National Archives and Records Administration**

- Safeguards and preserves the records of our government

**National Park Service**

- Safeguards and preserves national parks

**National Endowment for the Arts**

- Supports artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

- Provides U.S. economic and humanitarian assistance abroad