

### ***How to find basic information about Laws, Regulations, and Court Cases***

1. Identify what type of government action you are investigating and follow recommended sources of information:

Type	Laws	Regulations	Court Cases
<b>Primary Actor</b>	Congress	Agencies, Bureaus, or Departments (under the Executive Branch)	Federal courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Courts</li> <li>• Courts of Appeals</li> <li>• U.S. Supreme Court</li> </ul>
<b>Keywords</b>	“Act”, “Bill”, “Amendments”, “Clause”	“Rule”, “Regulation”	“vs”
<b>Recommended actions</b>	Look for a Legislative history ( <b>ProQuest Congressional</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for your regulation on a U.S. agency website (<b>Responsible Googling</b>)</li> </ul>	Look for information at <b>Oyez.org</b>

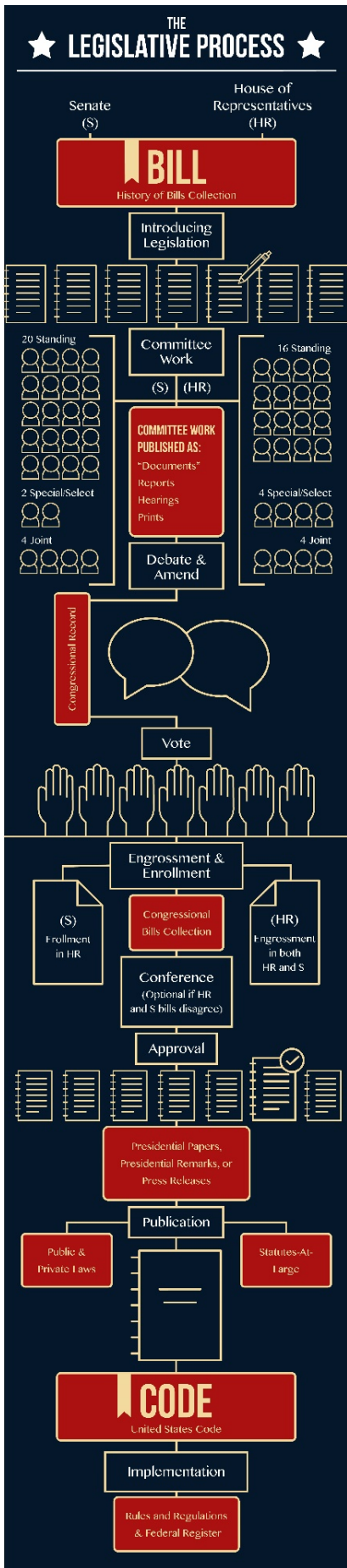
2. Record relevant information on the available handouts.
3. Summarize and analyze information to complete your assignment.

### **Summary of Search Tips**

*Links to these resources are on the first tab of the Research Help Guide (see Canvas)*

- **ProQuest Congressional** – access through the Library website. Select “Legislative History” and type the short title of your law into the search bar. Results may auto populate. If you have too many options, try refining your date range. For example, if your law passed in 1974, limit your search to between “01/01/1974” and “12/31/1974.”
- **Responsible Googling** – Google can be a useful search engine if you know how to use it properly. Use *site:“.gov”* to precede your search terms to find government agency sites that pertain to your topic. Placing your search terms in quotation marks may help as well.
- **Guide to Finding Regulations** – For detailed steps on how to search for regulations, see the Guide linked on the research guide.
- **Oyez.org** – Type your case name into the search bar to access information about U.S. Supreme Court Cases.

For additional resources, see your course Research Guide, which is available through Canvas.



**Information about a Law**

**Popular Name of Law:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bill number (S or HR):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Introduced:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

*Where did you find the above information?* \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of intent (see the description under the statement “An Act” or “A Bill”):** \_\_\_\_\_

*You can also look for “Legislative Background” or introductory text in Committee Reports and Hearings.*

**Hearing or Report # (S or HR):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major topics discussed (check the table of contents):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hearing Attendance (check after the table of contents):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Legislative Background/Need for legislation (section title):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date Passed (also look for presidential remarks from this date):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Call numbers for print materials (visit the Government Information Department to find materials):**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*What regulations did this implement? (See next section)*

**Information about Regulations**

Popular Name of Regulation: \_\_\_\_\_

Affected Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find this information? \_\_\_\_\_

Description of intent (see the description):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Implementation:

- Code of Federal Regulations citation: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is affected? \_\_\_\_\_

*Was your law or regulation challenged in court? (See next section)*

**Information about Court Cases**

Popular Name of Court Case: \_\_\_\_\_

Affected Parties: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Decided: \_\_\_\_\_

Origination of case: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find this information? \_\_\_\_\_

Description of intent (see the description):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Court ruling: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is affected? \_\_\_\_\_

*Did your court case lead to new laws or regulations? (See previous sections)*