

Changing Rules, Laws, and the Flag



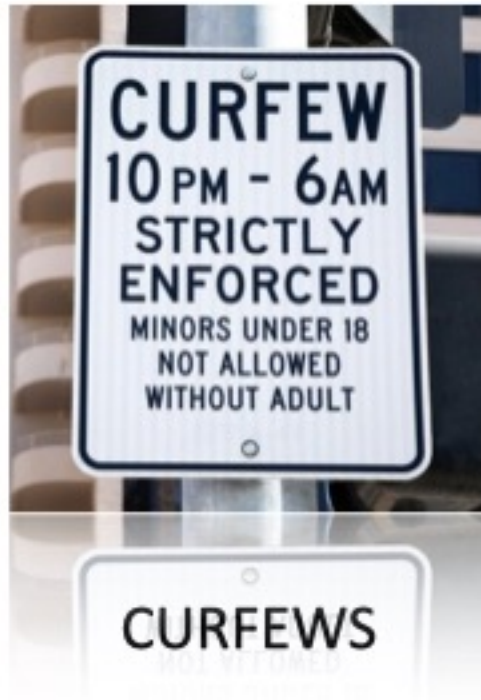
Learning Objectives: WE WILL...

- Understand how changes are made at different levels: family, school, government, national symbols.
- Learn how President Eisenhower guided the adoption of the 50-star flag.
- Apply the flag adoption process.

Have you ever wanted to change a rule or law?



USE OF DEVICES



CURFEWS

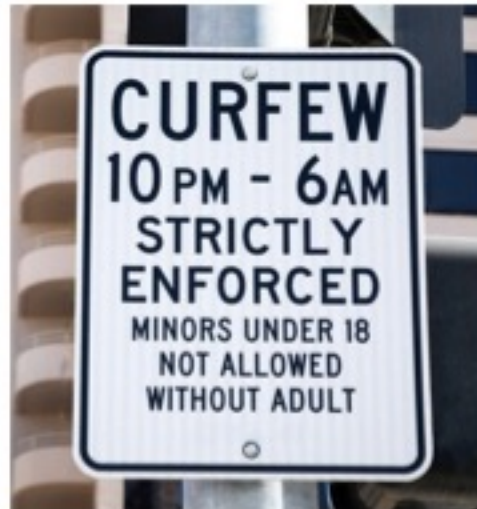


DRIVING AGE

How did you try (or how would you try) to change it?



USE OF DEVICES
Family Rule
School Rule



CURFEWS
City Law



DRIVING AGE
State Law

Does your family have a process for changing rules?

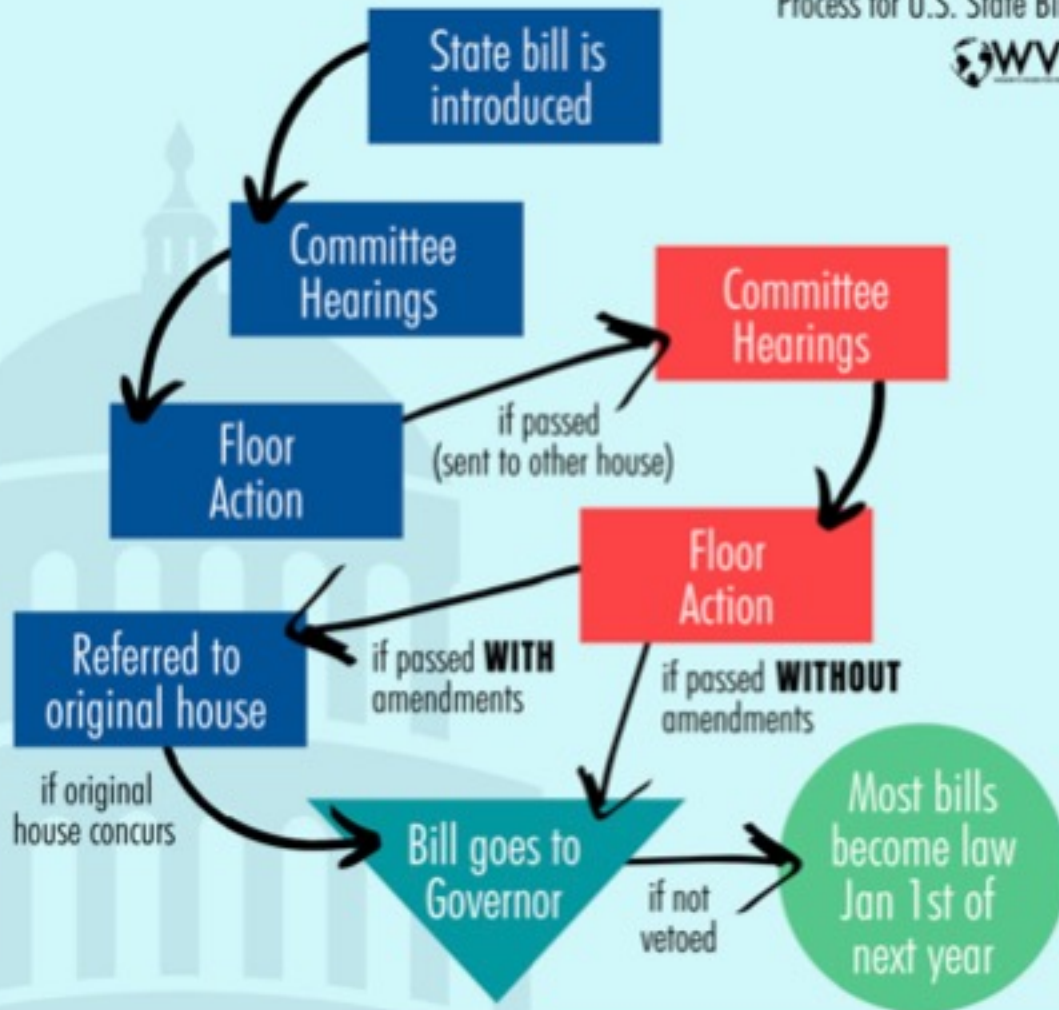
Changing a School Rule

1. Propose the change to the principal
2. Administration reviews the idea
3. Possible school board approval



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

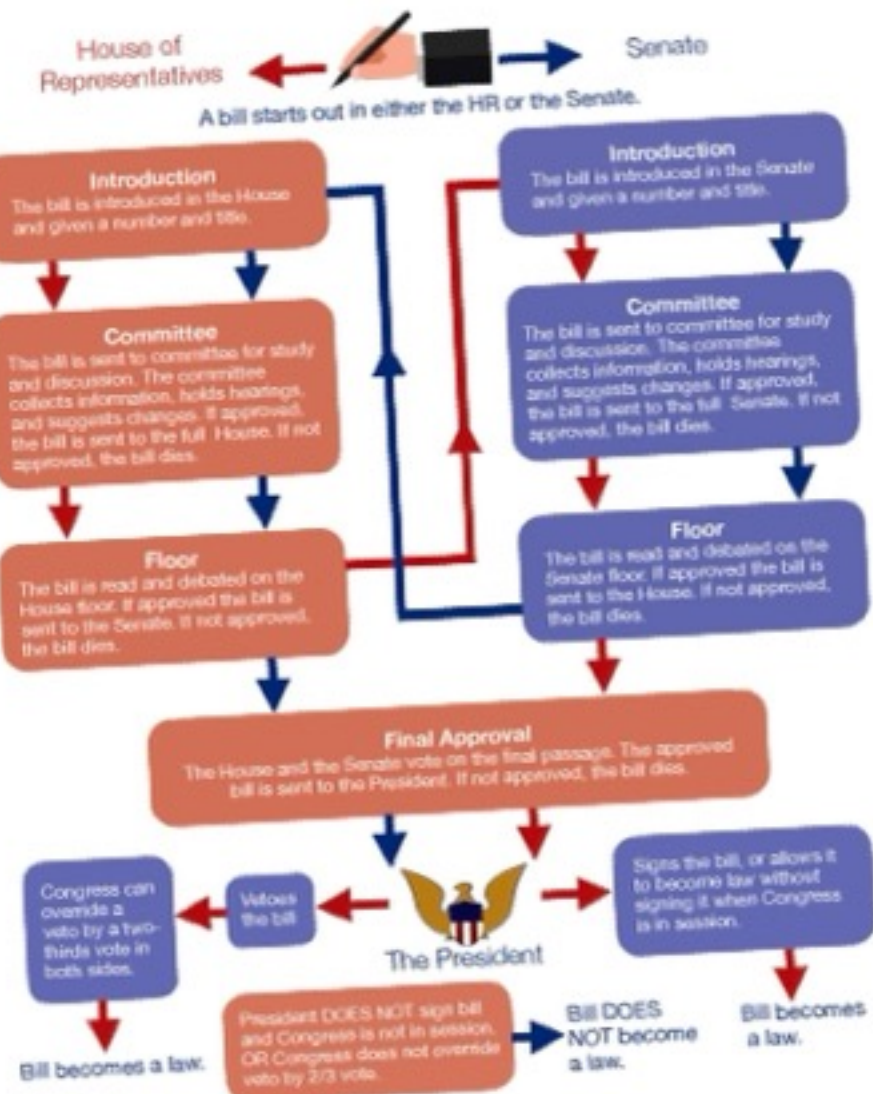
Process for U.S. State Bills



Some states may have a different process, but in general this is the path of a state bill to law.

Changing a State Law

Journey of a Bill Becoming a Law



Changing a Federal Law



President Eisenhower played a big part in the flag we see today. While he was President, he signed the bills from Congress that admitted Alaska and Hawaii as states. Then, he oversaw the legal process of changing the flag not once, but twice.

Fun fact: Eisenhower is the only president to serve under three different U.S. flags!

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953-1961



48-star flag:
July 4, 1912 — July 3, 1959

49-star flag:
July 4, 1959 - July 4, 1960
•Followed the admission
of Alaska as a state.



50-star flag:
July 4, 1960 - present day
•Followed the admission of
Hawaii as a state.

The Process to Change the Flag:

1 Convene an advisory committee

2 Committee reviews submitted designs

3 President issues an executive order

How do we know this?

PRIMARY SOURCES

PRIMARY SOURCE

Direct, first-hand evidence from the past;
Created during the time period being studied.

Photos, autobiographies, maps,
documents, letters, artifacts, etc.



PRIMARY SOURCE

O.F.
102-C
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 1958

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

Intended Audience

Date

Author

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

To assist him in determining the most desirable modification of the United States Flag in connection with the forthcoming admission of the new State of Alaska, the President has asked the Secretaries of State, Defense and the Treasury and the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts to join informally in recommending to him a proposed new design for the Flag.

The committee

In accordance with ~~the~~ request, a preliminary meeting was held this morning in the White House at which the past history of the changes in the Flag was discussed, as were various alternative suggestions for the current modification, submitted by the public as well as appropriate executive agencies. Over 1900 suggestions have been received from interested citizens.

Plans to review design submissions

It is anticipated that this informal group will submit a recommendation to the President within the next few weeks, following which he will issue an Executive Order designating the new design of the Flag. This procedure is in accordance with existing law and past precedents. Public Law 279 - 80th Congress provides that the new design shall take effect on the fourth day of July following the admission of a new state to the Union.

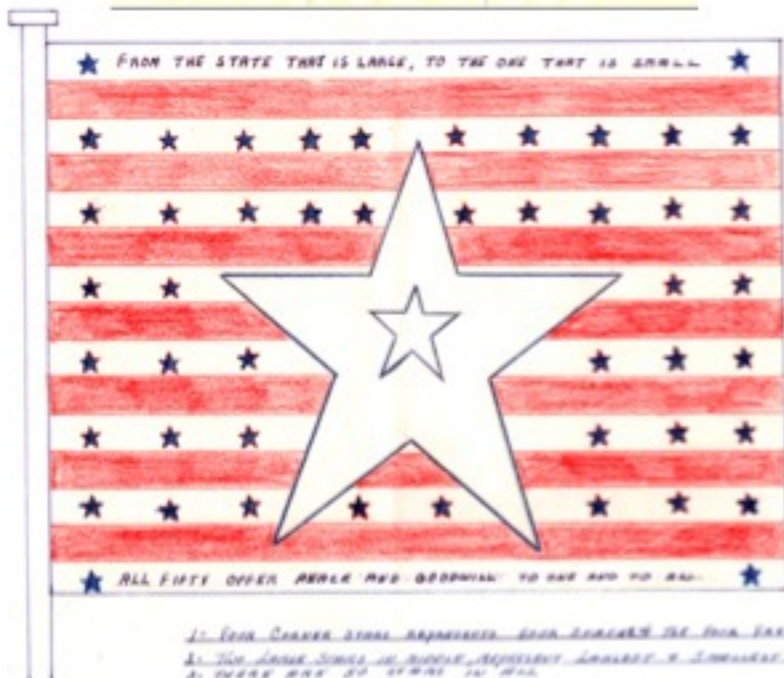
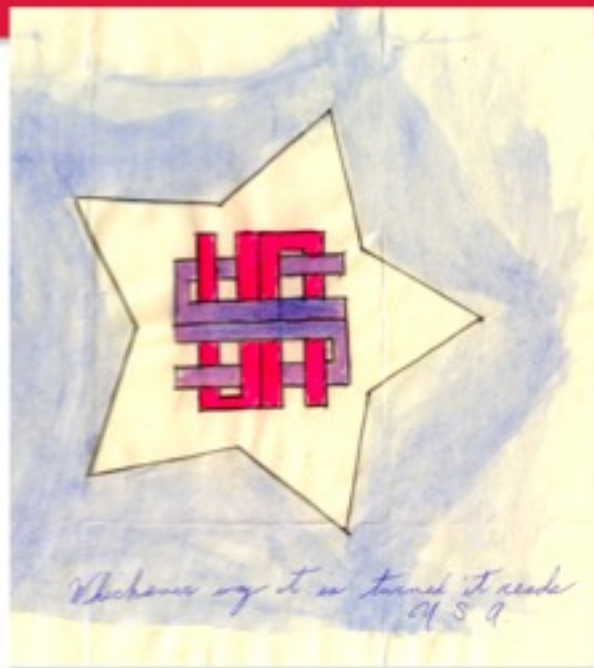
Announcement of future executive order

Following existing law and past precedents



How many designs were submitted?





PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

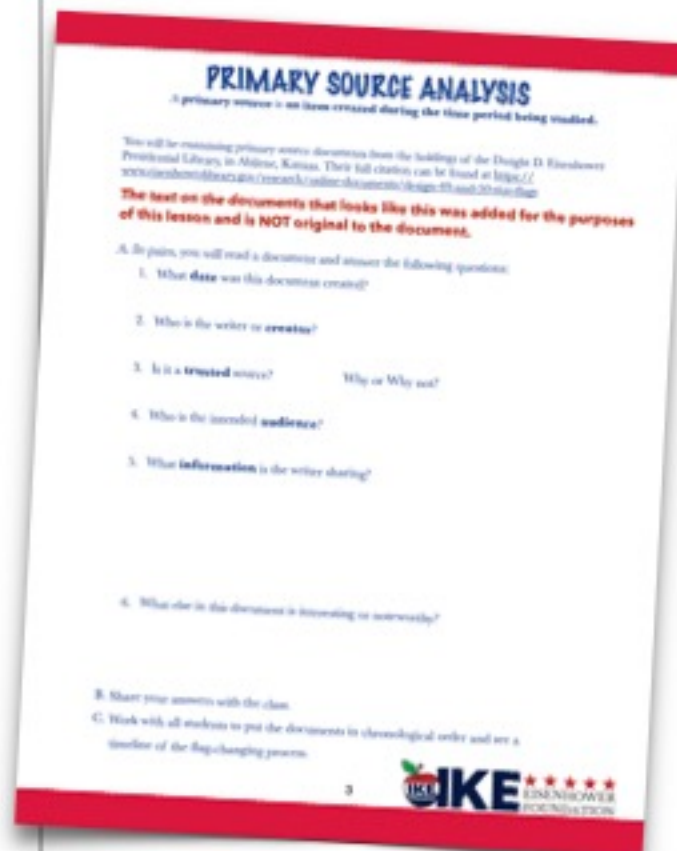
You will be examining primary sources related to the creation of the 50-star flag.

A. In pairs, read a document and answer the following questions:

1. What **date** was this document created?
2. Who is the writer or **creator**?
3. Is it a **trusted** source? Why or Why not?
4. Who is the intended **audience**?
5. What **information** is the writer sharing?
6. What else in this document is **interesting or noteworthy**?

B. Share your answers with your class

C. Work with all students to put the documents in chronological order and see a timeline of the flag-changing process.



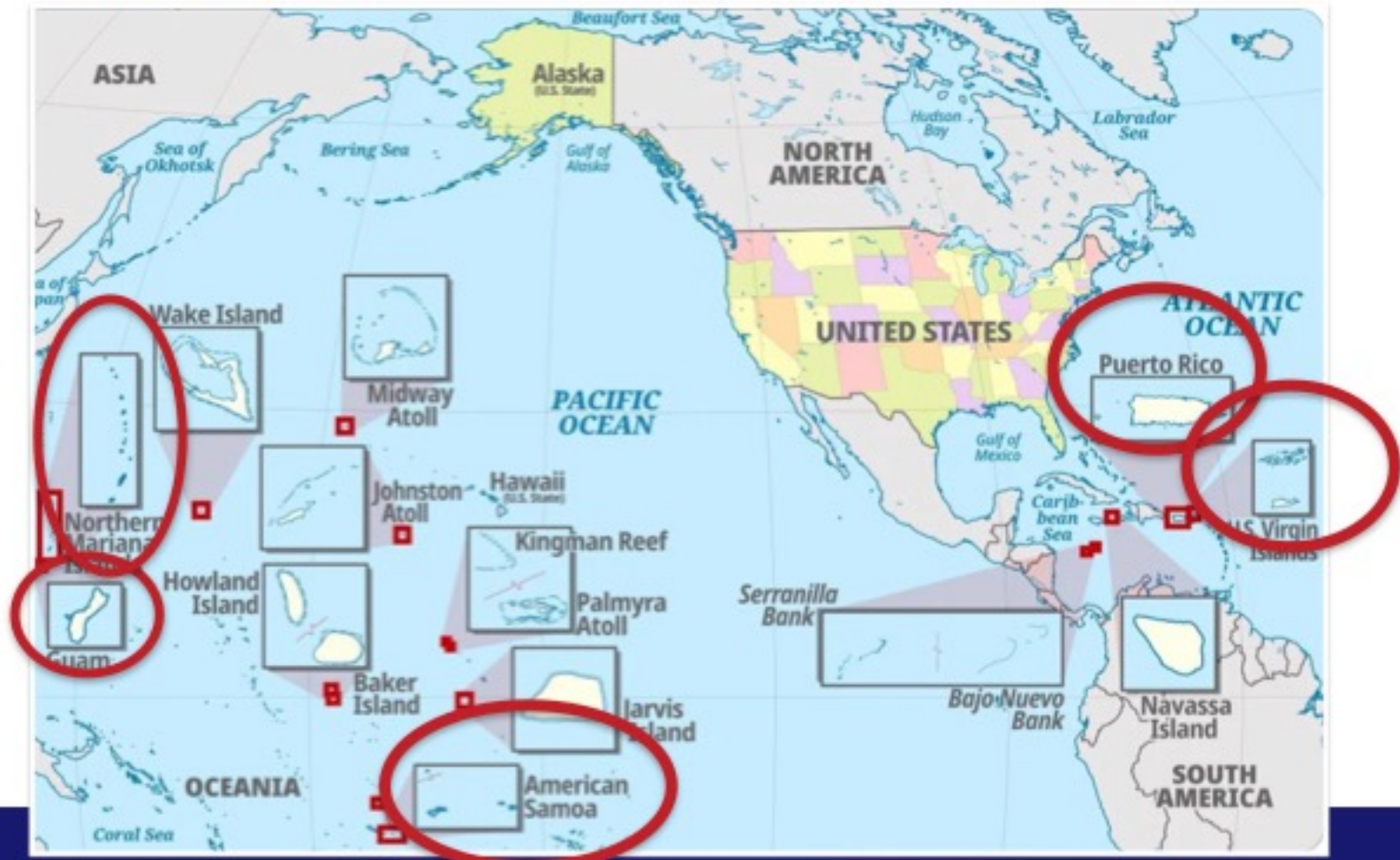
Eisenhower frequently emphasized the significance of the American flag in official proclamations and addresses, particularly around **Flag Day**:

- In his **Flag Day Proclamation** on **June 1, 1953**, President Eisenhower called the flag an emblem of "our freedom, our strength, and our unity," urging Americans to display it and reflect on the "inestimable privileges of living under its protective stars and stripes".
- In a similar proclamation on **June 1, 1960**, he highlighted how the flag should inspire pride and gratitude for America's national heritage and ideals, urging citizens to cultivate "ideals and ... qualities of responsible American citizenship".



So what about today?

- Since 1789, 31 U.S. territories have become states.
- Today, the U.S. oversees 14 territories.
- Five of the 14 U.S. territories are inhabited: American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- There is growing support for Puerto Rico to be admitted as the 51st state.



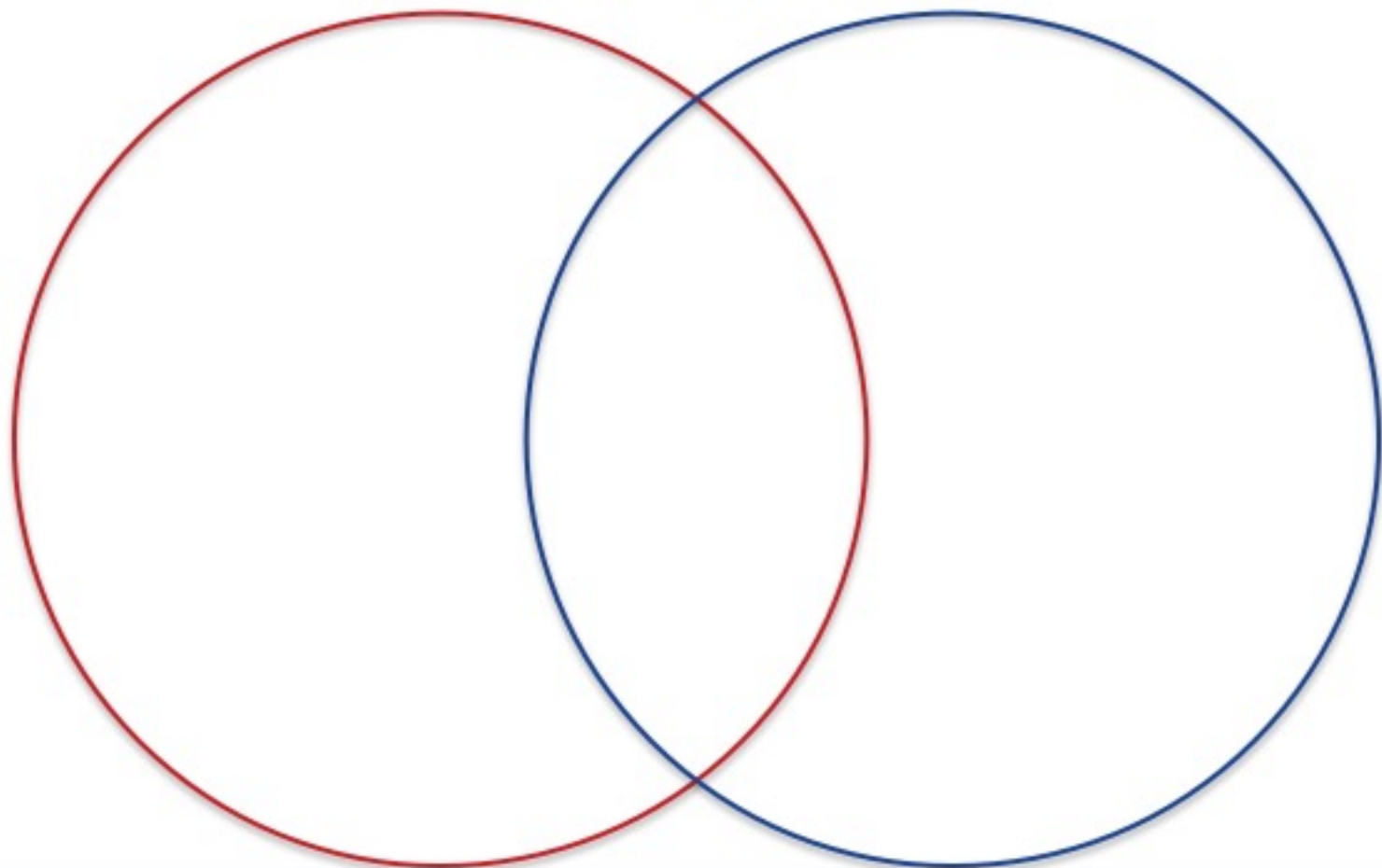
Simulation activity: What would happen to the flag if Puerto Rico or another territory became a state?

- Design a U.S. flag with 51 stars.
- Prepare to present your idea to the committee (12 members of your class).
- The committee will vote on their choice and submit their recommendation to the “president” (your teacher).
- The teacher will confirm the committee’s choice or ask for a resubmission.



From School Rules to Government:

What do the processes have in common?
What is different?



**BOTH REQUIRE
PROPOSAL, REVIEW, AND
APPROVAL**

**STRUCTURED PROCESSES
HELP MAINTAIN ORDER
AND FAIRNESS.**

CRITICAL THINKING AND DISCUSSION

- Why do we follow such structured processes for change?
- What are the pros and cons of having so many checks and approvals?
- Why are primary sources so important to use in research?
- Do you think the flag should always be redesigned if the number of states changes, or could we create a flexible design?



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