

A Quick Guide to the Law-making Role-play Senate

Role-play stages	<i>Interpretation</i>
<p>Entrance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Clerk rings the bell and asks senators to stand. 2. The Usher of the Black Rod leads the President into the chamber, announces the President and places the Black Rod in its stand. 3. The President sits and asks everyone in the chamber to sit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standing is a sign of respect.</i> • <i>Traditionally the Usher of the Black Rod protects the President.</i>
<p>Commencement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President makes announcements and asks the Clerk to read the rules. 2. The Clerk reads the rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The rules ensure that an orderly atmosphere is maintained in the chamber.</i>
<p>The first reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President asks the Clerk to read the title of the bill. 2. The Clerk reads the title of the bill for the first time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The first reading introduces the bill to the chamber.</i> • <i>The bill becomes a public document.</i>
<p>The second reading speech</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President calls the minister responsible for the bill to introduce the bill. 2. The minister makes a speech explaining its purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>While the majority of bills are introduced in the House, all bills except money bills may begin in the Senate.</i> • <i>After the minister's speech the bill is usually 'parked' to give senators time to prepare for the debate.</i>
<p>Optional: Party meeting to plan position and speeches for second reading debate.</p>	
<p>The second reading debate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President asks senators to stand if they wish to speak. 2. The President chooses a senator to speak. The senator delivers a speech on the bill and returns to his or her seat. 3. The President repeats steps 1 to 2 until the debate is exhausted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Speeches are rotated between government, opposition and crossbench (minor party and Independent) senators.</i>

<p>The vote on the voices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President asks senators to vote <i>for or against</i> the bill by saying ‘aye’ or ‘no’. 2. The President declares the result of the vote. 3. The President asks if a division is required. 4. The whip may request a division on behalf of the team that fails the vote on the voices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The vote on the voices is an uncounted vote to determine whether the chamber wishes the bill to be read a second time. Any bill that is not read a second time cannot proceed.</i> • <i>The opposition and crossbench are free to agree or disagree with the government bill.</i>
<p>The division</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President announces the division. 2. The Clerk rings the bells. 3. The President tells senators to vote <i>for or against</i> the bill by sitting to the right or left of the President’s chair. 4. Minor parties and Independents move to vote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A division is a counted vote, recorded in Hansard.</i> • <i>The ‘bells’ are rung through 2,700 APH clocks which call senators to the chamber to vote with their team.</i> • <i>Crossing the floor is rare in federal Parliament.</i>
<p>The division result</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The whips count the vote. 2. The President announces the result of the vote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The government may or may not have a majority in the Senate. The balance of power may be held by the crossbench.</i>
<p>The second reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the government wins the vote the President asks the Clerk to read the title of the bill a second time. 2. If the opposition wins the vote the President moves to the adjournment without reading the bill a second time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A second reading means that the majority of senators in the Senate agree with the main idea of the bill.</i> • <i>If the majority vote is against the second reading, the bill is dropped.</i>
<p>Adjournment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President announces that the Senate is adjourned. 2. The Clerk asks senators to stand. 3. The Usher of the Black Rod leads the President from the chamber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standing is a sign of respect.</i> • <i>By tradition the Usher of the Black Rod protects the President.</i>