

Write your own bill

Use this template to create your own bill for the Make a law – Senate classroom activity.

This page includes a master script for the teacher and individual scripts for students who have been given roles for this activity.

Master script

The Clerk stands up and rings the bell.

Clerk: Honourable Senators, please stand.

The Usher of the Black Rod, carrying the Black Rod, leads the President into the room.

Usher: Honourable senators, the President.

The President sits. The Usher of the Black Rod sits down, keeping the Black Rod next to them.

President: Senators, please sit down. The Senate is now in session. The rules of the Senate must be obeyed. Clerk, please read out the rules.

The Clerk stands.

Clerk: Always stand up to speak. Begin your speech with the words 'Thank you President'. Senators should not interrupt each other. The President keeps order.

The Clerk sits.

President: Clerk, read the title of the bill.

The Clerk stands.

Clerk: The _____. A Bill for an Act to _____

_____.

The Clerk sits.

President: I call the Minister for _____ to introduce the bill.

The Minister stands.

Minister: Thank you President, I am pleased to introduce this bill to the Senate. This bill will...
(the Minister completes their prepared speech).

The Minister sits.

President: I call the Shadow Minister for _____.

The Shadow Minister stands.

Shadow Minister: Thank you President, The opposition does not support this bill. I disagree with this bill because... (the Shadow Minister completes their prepared speech).

The Shadow Minister sits.

President: Are there any other comments on this bill? Stand if you wish to speak.

Senators who wish to speak stand.

President: I call Senator _____ (the first name of somebody who is standing).

The called senator stands and gives their speech.

The President repeats 'stand if you wish to speak' and continues to call upon senators until everyone has had a turn or time is up.

President: Order! A vote on the bill will now be taken. Those who support the bill move to the right of the President's chair. Those who oppose the bill move to the left of the President's chair. Whips, count the vote.

The independent and minor party senators choose a side and sit down.

The Whips stand up and count the votes on their side of the chamber. They tell the count to the President.

The President stands.

President: Order! Result of the division. The number of votes for the bill is _____. The number of votes against the bill is _____.

If the vote is for the bill:

President: The bill is agreed to. Clerk, read the title of the bill.

If the vote is against the bill:

President: The bill is not agreed to.

If the bill is agreed to, the Clerk stands.

Clerk: The _____. A Bill for an Act to _____

_____.

The Clerk sits.

President: Order! The Senate is now adjourned.

The Usher of the Black Rod leads the President out of the room.


Individual scripts

The _____ Bill


A Bill for an Act to _____

THE PRESIDENT

When you are led in by the Usher, sit down and say:

-  Senators, please sit down. The Senate is now in session. The rules of the Senate must be obeyed. Clerk, please read out the rules.


After the Clerk has read out the rules, say:

-  Clerk, read the title of the bill.

Then say:

-  I call the Minister for _____ to introduce the bill.

Wait for the speech to be read.

-  I call the Shadow Minister for _____.

Wait for the speech to be read.


-  Are there any other comments on this bill?

Stand if you wish to speak. (wait for people to stand)

I call Senator _____ (say the first name of someone who is standing, then let them speak)

If anyone else wants to speak, repeat 'stand if you wish to speak'.

When all the senators have finished speaking, say:


-  Order! A vote on the bill will now be taken.

Those who support the bill move to the right of the President's chair.

Those who oppose the bill move to the left of the President's chair.

Whips, count the vote.

After the whips have told you the results of the vote, stand up and say:

-  Order! Result of the division:

The number of votes for the bill is ____

The number of votes against the bill is ____

The bill is agreed to. Clerk read the title of the bill.

To end the session, say:

 Order! The Senate is now adjourned.

Follow the Usher out of the chamber.

THE CLERK

Stand up, ring the bell and say:

 Honourable senators, please stand.

When the President asks you to read the rules, stand up and say:


 Always stand up to speak.

Begin your speech with the words 'Thank you President.


Senators should not interrupt each other.

The President keeps order.

The President will ask you to read the title of the bill. Stand up and say:

 The _____. A Bill for an Act to _____
_____.

Later, the President may ask you to read the title of the bill again. You say:


 The _____. A Bill for an Act to _____
_____.

When the President says 'the Senate is now adjourned', stand and say:

 Honourable senators, please stand.

USHER

When the Clerk rings the bell, lead the President into the chamber, carrying the Black Rod in your right hand. Say:

 Honourable senators, the President.

Then sit down.

When the Clerk says 'Honourable senators, please stand', pick up the Black Rod and lead the President out of the chamber.

MINISTER FOR



Thank you President,

I am pleased to introduce this bill to the Senate.

This bill will...

(Explain how the bill will work and why it's needed)

SHADOW MINISTER FOR



Thank you President,

The opposition does not support this bill.

I disagree with this bill because...

(Explain why you disagree)

GOVERNMENT WHIP

When the President says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the senators on your side.

Remember to count yourself, the Leader of the Government, and the President.

Do not count the Clerk or the Usher.

Go and tell the President the results.

OPPOSITION WHIP

When the President says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the senators on your side.

Remember to count yourself and the Leader of the Opposition.

Do not count the Clerk or the Usher.

Go and tell the President the results.