

No Homework Bill

Stuck for ideas? Use this bill for the Make a law – Senate classroom activity. The No Homework Bill works well with primary school classes.

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.

President: Clerk, read the title of the bill.

Clerk: The No Homework Bill. A Bill for an Act to ban homework in all Australian schools.

The Clerk sits.

President: I call the Leader of the Government in the Senate to introduce the bill.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate stands.

Leader of the Government in the Senate: Thank you President, I am pleased to introduce this bill to the Senate. School work should be done with the supervision of a teacher. At home, students might not have anybody to help them, or they might cheat on their homework. Homework simply does not help students to learn.

The Leader of the Government sits.

President: I call the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate stands.

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate: Thank you President, I am going to vote against this bill. Some teachers give interesting activities for homework which kids enjoy, instead of just maths and spelling. If this bill passes, teachers who set fun activities after school will be breaking the law.

The Leader of the Opposition sits.

President: I call Senator Reid.

Senator Reid stands.

Senator Reid: Thank you President, I am going to vote for this bill. Children should be more involved in their community. Instead of being stuck at home doing homework, they will have time to be involved in local sports, music, arts and other groups.

Senator Reid sits.

President: I call Senator Lee.

Senator Lee stands.

Senator Lee: Thank you President, I am not going to support this bill. Students need to be able to reinforce what they learn in class. By banning homework, this Government will be stopping students from reaching their full potential.

Senator Lee sits.

President: I call Senator Baker.

Senator Baker stands.

Senator Baker: Thank you President, I think that most homework is a waste of time, but I do think that students should have to read at home. Later, I will suggest a change to the bill to ban all homework except for reading.

Senator Baker 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 room. 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 vote is for the bill, the Clerk stands.

Clerk: The No Homework Bill. A Bill for an Act to ban homework in all Australian Schools.

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 No Homework Bill

A Bill for an Act to ban homework
in all Australian schools

THE PRESIDENT

When you are led in by the Usher of the Black Rod, 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 Leader of the Government in the Senate to introduce the bill.

Wait for the speech to be read. Then say:

-  I call the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.

Senator speaks.

-  I call Senator Reid

Senator speaks.

-  I call Senator Lee

Senator speaks.

-  I call Senator Baker

Senator speaks.

-  Are there any other comments on this bill?

Stand if you wish to speak.

I call Senator _____ (use first name)

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.

When the whips have counted the votes and told you the result 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 ____

If the vote is for the bill say:

If the vote is against the bill say:



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



The bill is not agreed to.



Order! The Senate is now adjourned.

Follow the Usher of the Black Rod out of the room.

THE CLERK

To begin the session 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.

When the President asks you to read the title of the bill stand and say:

 The No Homework Bill. A Bill for an Act to ban homework in all Australian schools.

If the President asks you to read the title of the bill again, stand up and say:

 The No Homework Bill. A Bill for an Act to ban homework in all Australian schools.

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

 Honourable Senators, please stand.

USHER OF THE BLACK ROD

When the Clerk rings the bell, lead the President into the room, carrying the Black Rod in front of you. Say:

 Honourable Senators, the President.

Sit down, keeping the Black Rod beside you.

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

LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE



Thank you President,

I am pleased to introduce this bill to the Senate.

School work should be done with the supervision of a teacher. At home, students might not have anybody to help them, or they might cheat on their homework.

Homework simply does not help students to learn.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE



Thank you President,

I am going to vote against this bill.

Some teachers give interesting activities for homework which kids enjoy, instead of just maths and spelling. If this bill passes, teachers who set fun activities after school will be breaking the law.

SENATOR REID – GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHER



Thank you President,

I am going to vote for this bill.

Children should be more involved in their community. Instead of being stuck at home doing homework, they will have time to be involved in local sports, music, arts and other groups.

SENATOR LEE – OPPOSITION BACKBENCHER



Thank you President,

I am not going to support this bill.

Students need to be able to reinforce what they learn in class. By banning homework, this Government will be stopping students from reaching their full potential.

SENATOR BAKER – MINOR PARTY SENATOR



Thank you President,

I think that most homework is a waste of time, but I do think that students should have to read at home.

Later, I will suggest a change to the bill to ban all homework except for reading.

GOVERNMENT WHIP

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

Don't forget to count yourself, your leader and the President.

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.

Don't forget to count yourself, and your leader.

Go and tell the President the results.