

No Homework Bill

Stuck for ideas? Use this bill for the Make a law – House of Representatives 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 members, please stand.

The Serjeant-at-Arms, carrying the Mace, leads the Speaker into the room.

Serjeant-at-Arms: Honourable members, the Speaker.

The Speaker sits. The Serjeant-at-Arms places the Mace on the table and sits down.

Speaker: Members, please sit down. The House is now in session. The rules of the House 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 Speaker'. Members should not interrupt each other. The Speaker keeps order.

Speaker: 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.

Speaker: I call the Minister for Education to introduce the bill.

The Minister stands.

Minister: Thank you Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this bill to the House. After spending many hours at school, students are tired and don't need to do more school work. If we ban homework, children will have more time for other activities like sport and music.

The Minister sits.

Speaker: I call the Shadow Minister for Education.

The Shadow Minister stands.

Shadow Minister: Thank you Speaker. I am going to vote against this bill. Studies show that homework helps children remember what they learn in school. If homework is banned, children will just waste more time playing video games.

The Shadow Minister sits.

Speaker: I call the Member for Grey.

The Member for Grey stands.

Member for Grey: Thank you Speaker, I am going to vote for this bill. Parents have to supervise homework and sometimes even do their children's homework for them. This doesn't help anyone. A happy home is one without any homework!

The Member for Grey sits.

Speaker: I call the Member for Holt.

The Member for Holt stands.

Member for Holt: Thank you Speaker, I am going to vote against this bill. Homework teaches good study habits and shows students that learning can happen outside school. A better education means a better future for Australian children!

The Member for Holt sits.

Speaker: I call the Member for Melbourne.

The Member for Melbourne stands.

Member for Melbourne: Thank you Speaker, I am concerned that students are doing too much homework. However, I cannot support this bill as it is. Later, I will suggest a change to the bill to limit homework to one hour a week for primary students and two hours a week for high school students.

The Member for Melbourne sits.

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

Members who wish to speak stand.

Speaker: I call the Member for _____ (the first name of somebody who is standing).

The called member stands and gives their speech.

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

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

The independent and minor party members 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 Speaker.

The Speaker stands.

Speaker: 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 again.

The Clerk stands.

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

The Clerk sits.

Speaker: Order! The House is now adjourned.

The Serjeant-at-Arms collects the Mace from the table and leads the Speaker out of the room.


Individual scripts

The No Homework Bill

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

THE SPEAKER

When you are led in by the Serjeant-at-Arms, sit down and say:

 Members, please sit down. The House is now in session. The rules of the House 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 Education to introduce the bill.

The Minister speaks.

 I call the Shadow Minister for Education.

Member speaks.

 I call the Member for Grey.


Member speaks.

 I call the Member for Holt.

Member speaks.

 I call the Member for Melbourne.


Member speaks.

 Are there any other comments on this bill?

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

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

When the time for debating is over, say:

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

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

Those who oppose the bill move to the left of the Speaker'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 ____

The bill is agreed to. Clerk read the title of the bill a second time.

To end the session, say:



Order! The House is now adjourned.

Follow the Serjeant-at-Arms out of the room.

THE CLERK

To begin the session stand up, ring the bell and say:



Honourable members, please stand.

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



Always stand up to speak.

Begin your speech with the words 'Thank you Speaker'.

Members should not interrupt each other.

The Speaker keeps order.

When the Speaker 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.

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



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

When the Speaker says 'the House is now adjourned', stand and say:



Honourable members, please stand.

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

When the Clerk rings the bell, lead the Speaker into the room, carrying the Mace on your right shoulder. Say:



Honourable members, the Speaker.

Place the Mace on the table, then sit down.

When you hear the Speaker say 'the House is now adjourned' stand up, take the Mace from the table and lead the Speaker out of the room.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION



Thank you Speaker,

I am pleased to introduce this bill to the House.

After spending many hours at school, students are tired and don't need to do more school work. If we ban homework, children will have more time for other activities like sport and music.

SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION



Thank you Speaker,

I am going to vote against this bill.

Studies show that homework helps children remember what they learn in school. If homework is banned, children will just waste more time playing video games.

MEMBER FOR GREY – GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHER



Thank you Speaker,

I am going to vote for this bill.

Parents have to supervise homework and sometimes even do their children's homework for them. This doesn't help anyone.

A happy home is one without any homework!

MEMBER FOR HOLT – OPPOSITION BACKBENCHER



Thank you Speaker,

I am going to vote against this bill.

Homework teaches good study habits and shows students that learning can happen outside school. A better education means a better future for Australian children!

MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE – MINOR PARTY MEMBER



Thank you Speaker,

I agree that students are doing too much homework, so I will be voting with the government on this bill.

However, reading is not really homework and students should be reading every day.

Later, I would like to talk about allowing reading to be set as homework.

GOVERNMENT WHIP

When the Speaker says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the members on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself and the Prime Minister.

Go and tell the Speaker the results.

OPPOSITION WHIP

When the Speaker says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the members on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself and the Leader of the Opposition.

Go and tell the Speaker the results.