# Secret instructions

Use these secret instructions to complete the Negotiate a minority government classroom activity.

Distribute a secret instruction card to each group and give them a few minutes to read and think about their secret instructions. Remind students they are to play the part they have been allocated and to focus on what they want to achieve.

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| **Conservative major party** Your goal is to form government so that you can keep Australia’s economy stable and reduce taxes on businesses. If you form government, $10 billion is available to be spent on new projects. Getting the Environment party member to support you will make it easier to get your ideas agreed to in the Senate, as their party holds the balance of power there. | **Progressive major party** Your goal is to form government so that you can increase welfare payments and take direct action on issues such as health and education. If you form government, $10 billion is available to be spent on new projects. Getting the Environment party member to support you will make it easier to get your ideas agreed to in the Senate, as their party holds the balance of power there. |
| **Independent** Your goal is to encourage whichever party forms government to put more money and resources into your home state of Tasmania, starting with a new children’s hospital in Launceston, which will cost $1.8 billion. You may choose to support the Conservative major party, the Progressive major party or neither. It is unlikely you will be able to get your projects funded if you do not choose a party to support. **Don’t announce your decision until the press conference at the end of the negotiations.** | **Independent** Your goal is to encourage whichever party forms government to keep to the political centre and get the government to support a new river management plan, which will cost $5.8 billion. You may choose to support the Conservative major party, the Progressive major party or neither. It is unlikely you will be able to get your projects funded if you do not choose a party to support. **Don’t announce your decision until the press conference at the end of the negotiations.** |

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| **Farmers party** Your goal is to encourage whichever party forms government to put more money and resources into supporting farming communities. You would like the government to put $2.5 billion into a fund to help farmers who have been affected by drought. You may choose to support the Conservative major party, the Progressive major party or neither. It is unlikely you will be able to get your projects funded if you do not choose a party to support. **Don’t announce your decision until the press conference at the end of the negotiations.** | **Environment party** Your goal is to encourage whichever party forms government to take immediate action on climate change, starting with a $7.5 billion investment in renewable energy. You may choose to support the Conservative major party, the Progressive major party or neither. It is unlikely you will be able to get your projects funded if you do not choose a party to support. **Don’t announce your decision until the press conference at the end of the negotiations.** |
| **Coal Power party** Your goal is to encourage whichever party forms government to support mining jobs in Queensland, starting with a $3.9 billion investment in a rail line for a new coal mine. You may choose to support the Conservative major party, the Progressive major party or neither. It is unlikely you will be able to get your projects funded if you do not choose a party to support. **Don’t announce your decision until the press conference at the end of the negotiations.** | **Press gallery journalist** Your goal is to report the news. You can choose which facts you think will be interesting to your audience. You may ask questions of the members throughout the activity and listen in on their conversations. Before negotiations begin, you will interview the major party leaders and crossbenchers in a press conference. Ask them what their values are and what they hope to achieve. During the negotiations, gather information to present a short news bulletin to the class when prompted. |