



DEPARTMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Role play information for teachers

Thank you for being part of this program that teaches students about the basic principles of democracy and parliamentary processes.

Students will play the parts of government, opposition and independent members as well as parliamentary officers in a chamber setting. The students will decide on an issue to debate as a class, write their own speeches, perform the debate and take a vote on the bill. Throughout the parliamentary session, all 'members' will be required to conform to parliamentary etiquette that mirrors the real Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory.

You do not need to do anything to prepare the students or classroom for the role play. We bring all the materials and props that we use, and setting up the classroom is part of explaining the layout of the chamber to students. However, we do start the program by showing a short PowerPoint presentation and so will need your assistance to show this in the classroom. We only bring a USB and will not have our own laptop.

One thing you may like to think about in preparation is to identify which students would be the most suitable for the major and minor roles of the role play. Every student will have a role to play and will be required to speak at some stage of the role play. Attached is a list of roles that the students will be playing and some suggestions of student suitability. You may advise students ahead of time of their role, although most teachers just decide on the day.

Throughout our visit it is expected that a teacher will be with the class at all times, and they are responsible for the behaviour of the students. Parliamentary Education staff will not undertake any classroom management during their visit.

During the role play we will provide copies of the scripts for the relevant students as well as the papers required for students to write their debate speeches, however, please note we do not provide pencils or pens for this activity.

Please contact us if you require further information. We always appreciate feedback and welcome any suggestions on improving our programs.

Thank you for your assistance and we hope you enjoy the show!

ROLE	REQUIREMENTS
SPEAKER	The Speaker keeps order in Parliament. This role has a script so the student should be comfortable reading on cue at a good volume, but unlike the members, the Speaker does not have to write their own speech.
CLERK	The Clerk will be reading the title and approx. a one sentence description of the bill. This is a minor speaking role and would suit students who are reluctant to address the class. The Clerk does not have to write a speech.
DEPUTY CLERK	The Deputy Clerk will be reading the Standing Orders of Parliament. The student should be fairly comfortable reading aloud at a good volume. The Deputy Clerk does not have to write a speech.
SERJEANT-AT-ARMS	The Serjeant-at-Arms carries the mace into Parliament and announces the Speaker as they enter the Chamber. This is the smallest speaking role and would suit a student who is reluctant to address the class.
CHIEF MINISTER	The Chief Minister has a small script to read out in addition to the speech they will have written. The Chief Minister will open the debate and read their speech first so needs to be quite confident in addressing the class.
GOVERNMENT MEMBERS	All government members are required to write their own speech and read it aloud to the class. There must be more government members than opposition members. They must vote with the government.
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	The Leader of the Opposition has a very small additional script to read, along with their own written speech. They will be the first on the opposition side to speak.
OPPOSITION MEMBERS	All opposition members are required to write their own speech and read it aloud to the class. They must vote with the opposition.
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS	There may be one or two independent members. They will need to write their own speech, but can choose which side they will support.