

Law-Making script

The Parliament of Australia
The Senate

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 Finch**

Senator speaks.

 **I call Senator Bruno**

Senator speaks.


 **I call Senator Cooper**

Senator speaks.


When the time for debating is over, say.

 **Order, the Senate is now adjourned.**

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

 **Senators please sit down.**
The Senate is now in session.
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.**
The question is that the bill be read a second time.
Those who agree say 'AYE' (let them say 'aye')
Those who disagree say 'NO' (let them say 'no')

If you think the 'AYES' were louder say:

 **I think the 'Ayes' have it.**


If you think the 'NOES' were louder say:

 **I think the 'Noes' have it.**


Wait for an answer, then say:

 **Order! Is a division required?**

Wait for an answer, then say:

 **Division is required. Clerk, ring the bells for 4 minutes. (wait)**
Order! 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:

 **OR** 

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

 **The bill is not agreed to.**

To end the session, say:

 **Order! The Senate is now adjourned.**

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

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 ‘Madam President’ or ‘Mr 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:

 **First reading, the No Homework Bill**

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

When the President says ‘the House is now adjourned’, stand and say:


 **Honourable Senators, please stand.**

The President and the Usher of the Black Rod will leave.

When it is time to start again stand up, ring the bell and say:

 **Honourable Senators, please stand.**

The President may ask you to read the title of the bill a second time. You say:

 **Second reading, the No Homework Bill**

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

When the President says ‘the House 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 chamber, 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 chamber.

LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

 Mr/Madam 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

 Mr/Madam 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 FINCH

YOU ARE A GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

 Mr/Madam 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 BRUNO

YOU ARE AN OPPOSITION BACKBENCHER FROM VICTORIA

Mr/Madam 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 COOPER

YOU ARE AN INDEPENDENT SENATOR FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr/Madam 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

Be alert for the vote on the bill.

Listen for when the President says ‘Those who agree say aye. Those who disagree say no’.

If the President then says ‘I think the noes have it’ stand up and say:

 **Mr/Madam President, a division is required.**

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

Be alert for the vote on the bill.

Listen for when the President says ‘Those who agree say aye. Those who disagree say no’.

If the President then says ‘I think the ayes have it’ stand up and say:

 **Mr/Madam President, a division is required.**

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.