



Educational Resources

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE SIMULATION

Preparing a Media Report – modified version

As a member of the media or “press gallery,” your job will be to write a story to tell Canadians about what transpired in this committee meeting. In doing so, you will decide what is most important and interesting to emphasize in your story.

Preparing for the simulation

Read the bill carefully.

1. What will Canadians find interesting about this bill?
2. Which clauses in the bill do you expect to pass easily?
3. Which clauses in the bill will have the most debate? Are there any clauses that you think will be defeated?

Look at the list of witnesses who will be appearing before the committee.

1. Which witnesses do you think will speak in favour of the bill? Why?
2. Which witnesses do you think will criticize the bill? Why?

During the committee meeting

Use the following charts or make your own to record notes on the important occurrences during the meeting.

Witness presentations

Name of person	What was their opinion?	Something interesting that he/she said

Debate on amendments

Clause	Did it pass? Was it amended?	An important reason that was offered

Writing the story

When you are writing a news story, the most important information is always at the very beginning. In a sentence or two, the reporter tries to answer the “5 Ws and the H” of a story: who, what, why, when, where and how. The reporter wants to capture what is important to know, but also to be interesting in order to get the reader to read the rest of the story. In planning your article, decide first what is most important for citizens to know about what happened at the committee meeting.

Story planning structure

Headline (several words long — designed to attract attention of reader):

5W’s and H (in one or two sentences, if possible: who, what, why, when, where and how):

Details and quotations to use in story (listed most important to least important):