



Educational Resources

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE SIMULATION

Preparing your Role

Student name: _____

Assigned role: _____

Your role card contains clues about your character's views on the bill. Read the bill for a second time, thinking about it from the perspective of your role. Ask yourself three questions:

1. Do you support or oppose the bill as it is written?
2. Which specific clauses in the bill do you most agree with and which do you least agree with?
3. Would your character want to support, defeat or amend (change) the bill?

Start reading each clause with a pen in hand. While reading, jot down notations — such as the ones listed below — for each clause. Remember to look at the ideas from your character's point of view.

- ++ Strongly support
- Strongly oppose
- * Find the idea interesting
- ? Find the idea confusing

After you read the bill again, answer these questions from the point of view of your assigned character:

1. According to my role card, does my party or organization support the bill? Is there any difference between my character's view and that of the organization or party that my character is attached to?

2. Is this issue a problem that needs fixing in Canada?

3. If this bill becomes law, will it be effective and feasible as a solution to the problem?

4. Are the penalties fair and enforceable?

5. Which two clauses would my character prioritize as most important to keep just as they are written?

6. Which clauses would my character think are the most important to change? How should the wording change?

Develop a few goals for the committee meeting and come up with a few strategies that might help your character achieve each goal. A sample answer is provided to help you understand this task.

Goal	Strategies to help achieve the goal
<p>Sample goal: <i>Convince committee members to keep the penalty at the current high level.</i></p>	<p>Sample strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ask the minister an easy question such as, “Why is it important to have this penalty?” to provide the minister with an opportunity to convince committee members.</i> 2. <i>Provide reasons why the penalty needs to be high to deter people from breaking the rules.</i> 3. <i>Think of problems that are likely to occur if the penalty is not kept at the current level.</i>