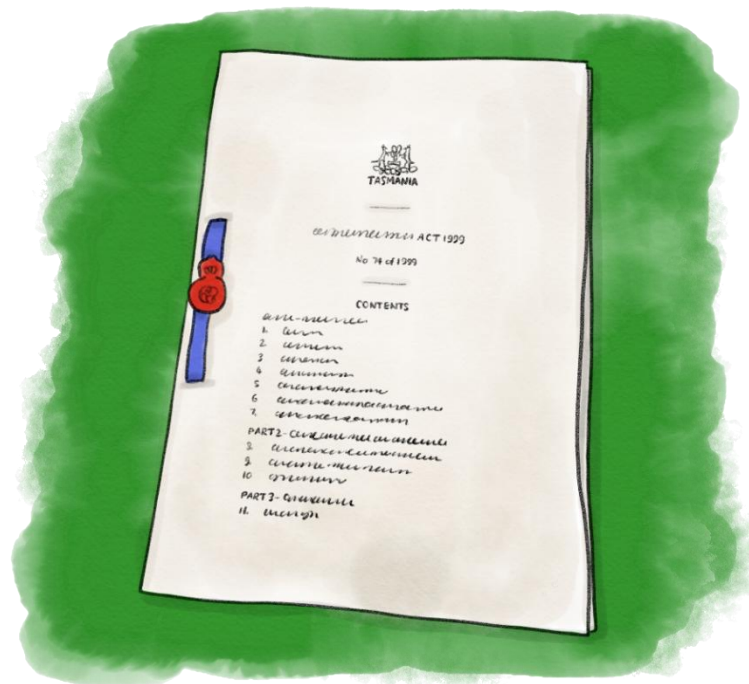


House of Assembly – Classroom role-play

Student Scripts

The Youth Volunteering Bill

A Bill for an Act requiring Tasmanian high school students to complete 10 hours of volunteer work per year.



ROLE-PLAY CAST LIST

The role-play incorporates scripted and unscripted parts. The scripted roles are as per the table below. Excluding the Presiding Officer and Officers of the Parliament, all students as Members of Parliament may make their own contribution during the Second Reading debate.

	Role	Member of Parliament	Quantity of scripted contribution	Option for personal contribution
Presiding Officer	Speaker of the House of Assembly	✓	☆☆☆	✗
	Clerk of the House of Assembly (<i>pronounced Clark</i>)	✗	☆☆	✗
Officers of the Parliament	Sergeant-at-Arms	✗	☆	✗
Government Members	Premier of Tasmania	✓	☆☆	✓
	Minister for Education	✓	☆☆☆	✓
	Member for Braddon	✓	☆☆	✓
	Member for Bass	✓	☆☆	✓
	Government Whip	✓	nil	✓
Opposition Members	Leader of the Opposition	✓	☆☆	✓
	Shadow Minister for Education	✓	☆☆	✓
	Member for Lyons	✓	☆☆	✓
	Leader of Opposition Business	✓		✓
	Opposition Whip	✓	☆	✓
Crossbench Members	Member for Franklin	✓	☆☆☆	✓
	Member for Clark	✓	☆☆	✓

THE SPEAKER

YOU ARE THE PRESIDING OFFICER

After your procession into the Chamber, remain standing and say:

The House of Assembly begins each sitting day with an Acknowledgement of Country *(pause)*.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge elders, past, present and emerging.

Sit down.

Everyone please sit down *(pause while everyone sits)*.

The House of Assembly is now in session. The *Standing Orders* or rules of the House must be obeyed. Clerk, please read aloud some of the *Standing Orders*.

After the Clerk has read out the rules, say:

Thank you Clerk. The first item of business for the House of Assembly today is the tabling of Bills. Does any Honourable Member have a Bill to introduce to Parliament?

The Minister for Education will stand up, calling for your attention. Say:

I call the Minister for Education.

Please turn over.

After the Minister presents the Bill, say:

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The House of Assembly will now have our first vote on this Bill. In addition to making this Bill a public document, the first vote determines if the House is willing to allocate time to debating this Bill. I remind Members that it is a sign of a healthy democracy to debate issues, especially when there is disagreement in our community about a matter (pause).

The question is, “Should the Bill be now read a First time?”

Those in favour say ‘Aye’ (wait for them to say ‘aye’).

Those against say ‘No’ (wait for them to say ‘no’).

I think the ‘Ayes’ have it (pause).

The ‘Ayes’ have it.

Clerk, read the title of the Bill for the First time.

The Clerk reads the title of the Bill. When the Clerk sits down say:

Thank you Clerk. We now move to the Second Reading of the Bill.

The Second Reading is the most important stage in the passage of a Bill through Parliament. During the Second Reading, Members debate the main ideas or principles of the Bill, not the details of the Bill. That comes later during the Committee stage.

I call the Minister for Education to begin the Second Reading.

The Minister for Education begins the debate. Wait for the Minister to finish speaking. Then say:

I call the Shadow Minister for Education.

Please turn over.

Shadow Minister speaks. Say:

3

I call the Member for Franklin.

Member speaks. Say:

I call the Premier of Tasmania.

Premier speaks. Say:

I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition speaks. Say:

I call the Member for Clark.

Member speaks. Say:

I call the Member for Braddon.

Member speaks. Say:

I call the Member for Lyons.

Member speaks. Say:

I call the Member for Bass.

You are now going to invite any other Member to join the debate. Say:

Would any other Member of the House of Assembly like to contribute to the debate on this Bill?

Stand if you wish to speak *(wait for people to stand).*

I call the Member for _____ *(say student name).*

If more than one Member wishes to speak, keep repeating, "Stand if you wish to speak".

Please turn over.

When all the Members have finished speaking, say:

4

To conclude the debate, I call the Minister for Education to reply to the Members' contributions.

The Minister for Education will reply. When they sit down, you say:

Thank you Minister.

We will now have our second vote on the Bill.

The question is, "Should the Bill be now read a Second time?"

Those in favour say 'Aye' *(wait for them to say 'aye')*.

Those against say 'No' *(wait for them to say 'no')*.

I think the 'Ayes' have it *(pause)*.

However, I may need to confirm the result with a Division.

Opposition Whip, is a Division required?

Wait for the answer from the Opposition Whip. They will tell you they would like a division.

Then say:

A Division is required.

Clerk, ring the bells *(pause for five seconds while the bells ring)*.

Stop the bells.

Sergeant-at-Arms lock the doors *(pause while the doors are locked)*.

The question is, "Should the Bill be now read a Second time?"

Those who support the Bill move to the right of the Speaker's Chair.

Those who oppose the Bill move to the left of the Speaker's Chair *(pause while Members move)*.

Whips count the votes and then come and tell me the results.

Please turn over.

After the Whips have told you the results of the vote, stand up and say:

(If the Ayes win say):

The result of the division is

Ayes _____ *(say number)* **Noes** _____ *(say number)*.

Therefore, the 'Ayes' have it. So far, the Bill is agreed to.

Clerk, read the title of the Bill a Second time.

Clerk reads the title of the Bill.

OR

(If the Noes win say):

The result of the division is

Ayes _____ *(say number)* **Noes** _____ *(say number)*.

Therefore, the 'Noes' have it. The Bill is defeated.

As the Bill has not passed, the House of Assembly will no longer debate it. There is no change to the existing Tasmanian laws.

Clerk does not read the title of the Bill.

OR

(If the votes are tied):

The result of the division is

Ayes _____ *(say number)* **Noes** _____ *(say number)*.

The result of the Division is a tie. Under *Standing Order Number 167*, to break a tie, the Speaker shall give a casting vote.

Therefore, with my vote included, the result of the Division is now:

Ayes _____ *(say number)* **Noes** _____ *(say number)*.

Therefore, the 'Ayes/Noes' have it.

The Bill is/is not agreed to.

Clerk does/does not read the title of the Bill.

Please turn over.

Say:

All Members please return to your seat *(pause while they settle).*

Members may wish to suggest some amendments to the Bill but this can only happen in Committee of the whole House. Therefore, does the House wish to go into Committee?

The Leader of Opposition Business will stand and say they do not need to go into Committee.

You say:

Thank you Leader of Opposition Business. We will now conclude debate on the Bill by voting on it for the third and final time.

The question is, “Should the Bill be now read a Third time?”

Those in favour say ‘Aye’ *(wait for them to say ‘aye’).*

Those against say ‘No’ *(wait for them to say ‘no’).*

I think the ‘Ayes’ have it *(pause).*

The ‘Ayes’ have it.

Clerk, read the title of the Bill for the Third time.

Clerk reads the title of the Bill.

To end the role-play, say:

The Bill has passed the House of Assembly. I will ask the Clerk to send the Bill to the Legislative Council for further debate.

The House is now adjourned.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will lead you out of the Chamber.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE

YOU ARE A PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER

After the bells ring, stand up and say:

Honourable Members of the House of Assembly and all visitors, please stand in silence for the Speaker's Procession.

When the Speaker asks you to read the Standing Orders or rules of the House, stand up and say:

- **Elected Members of the House of Assembly must conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times.**
- **The Speaker keeps order in the House and Members must follow their instructions.**
- **If physically able, stand to speak. Otherwise, Members may speak from their seat.**
- **Only speak when called upon by the Speaker. Begin speeches with 'Speaker'.**
- **Except for the Minister or sponsor of the Bill, Members may only speak once during the Second Reading.**

Sit down.

Please turn over.

The Speaker will ask you to read the title of the Bill for the first time. Stand up and say:

**A Bill for an Act requiring Tasmanian high school students
complete 10 hours of volunteer work per year**

Sit down.

Later, the Speaker may ask you to read the title of the Bill a second time. You say:

**A Bill for an Act requiring Tasmanian high school students
complete 10 hours of volunteer work per year**

Sit down.

Later, the Speaker may ask you to read the title of the Bill a Third time. You say:

**A Bill for an Act requiring Tasmanian high school students
complete 10 hours of volunteer work per year**

Sit down.

At the end of the role-play, when the Speaker says, "The House of Assembly is now adjourned", stand up and say:

All stand in silence.

The Speaker and the Sergeant-at-Arms will leave the Chamber.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

YOU ARE A PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER

When the Clerk asks everyone to stand, loudly say:

The Honourable, the Speaker.

Carrying the Mace on your right shoulder, walk the Speaker all the way to their Chair. Then place the Mace in the table in front of the Speaker. Stand at your seat until the Speaker tells you to sit down.

Later, when the Speaker says "Sergeant-at-Arms, lock the doors", go over to the main door and pretend to lock it.

At the end of the role-play, when the Clerk says "All stand in silence", pick up the Mace and lead the Speaker out of the Chamber.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

When the Speaker asks, "Does any Honourable Member have a Bill to introduce to Parliament?" stand up in your seat and call out:

Speaker.

Stay standing.

When the Speaker says "I call the Minister for Education" you say:

**Speaker,
I present the Youth Volunteering Bill.**

Then sit down.

After the Clerk reads the title of the Bill for the First time, the Speaker will call upon you to begin debate on the Bill. Stand up and say:

Speaker,

I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

It is my pleasure to introduce this progressive Bill to the House of Assembly. The aim of this Bill is to engage young people in the rewarding activity of community volunteering.

Our government believes that just 10 hours of volunteer work per year will foster the development of empathy and compassion in our young people. These qualities will help build a stronger community and make the leaders of tomorrow more thoughtful and caring of others.

Please turn over.

The wide range of volunteering opportunities available will allow young people to develop skills that can help them in future employment. Young people who have shown commitment and responsibility will be more attractive to potential employers across Australia, giving young Tasmanians an edge over their mainland peers.

I believe the Youth Volunteering Bill has the power to change society for the better and I encourage all members to vote in favour.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Then sit down.

When debate finishes, the Speaker will call upon you to reply. Stand up and say:

Speaker,

Thank you to the Members of the House of Assembly who contributed to this debate. As Members of Parliament, it is our job to speak on behalf of the Tasmanians we represent.

I would firstly like to restate that requiring young individuals to volunteer fosters a sense of community engagement and responsibility from a young age. It instils the importance of giving back to society and being active participants in the community.

I wish to address some of the concerns raised during this debate.

I acknowledge the Member for Clark's position that 20 hours may be better for the participants and this is something we will promise to review in 2 years' time.

The Department of Education, Children and Youth will use its judgement when facilitating this program and if there are individuals who cannot participate for personal reasons, this will be considered.

Finally, there was a question about potential exploitation of students in the program. That is an important consideration, and the Department of Education, Children and Youth will be creating policies to ensure this cannot occur.

In conclusion, with this Bill Tasmania will lead the nation in youth volunteering participation and this will make a positive contribution to our society as a whole. I encourage all Members of the House of Assembly to be forward thinking and to vote in favour of it.

I move a motion to vote on the Bill

Then sit down.

SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

When the Speaker says "I call the Shadow Minister for Education" stand up and say:

Speaker,

The Opposition have serious concerns about this Youth Volunteering Bill and will not be supporting it.

The Government believes that forcing young people to volunteer will make them better people. We disagree with this assumption and think that compulsory volunteering will result in a lack of genuine motivation from students to engage with their chosen organisation.

There are also concerns about potential exploitation of young people by some organisations. They may see this initiative as nothing more than free labour, used to do the work that adults don't want to do!

We appreciate that a more thoughtful and caring society will benefit us all, but we don't believe that forced volunteering is the best way to achieve this goal.

I will not be supporting this Bill

Then sit down.

MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CROSSBENCH

When the Speaker says "I call the Member for Franklin" stand up and say:

Speaker,

Tasmania should have laws that are in the best interests of all Tasmanians. Therefore, the crossbench is listening closely to this debate to fully understand the strengths and weaknesses of this proposed law.

In preparation for this debate I asked the people I represent in Franklin about their thoughts on compulsory youth volunteering. They told me that every young person has unique circumstances and commitments outside of school. These might include family responsibilities, part-time jobs or personal challenges. Imposing mandatory volunteering without considering individual circumstances might be unfair and place an additional burden on those who are already overwhelmed.

On the whole I support this Bill, but could the Minister please explain how individual cases will be reviewed and managed if necessary?

Thank you

Then sit down.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

When the Speaker says "I call the Leader of the Opposition" stand up and say:

Speaker,

While the Opposition is dedicated to providing our young people with the best possible start in life, we don't believe that making them volunteer against their will helps to achieve this goal.

The academic and vocational training pressures currently facing our young people are enormous. To add yet another requirement to our already overloaded young people is a recipe for burnout, not personal growth.

If we were in Government, we would ensure there is ample funding and opportunity available for students who want to volunteer to be able to do so.

As we will not be supporting a mandatory requirement, I cannot support this Bill

Then sit down.

PREMIER OF TASMANIA

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

When the Speaker says "I call the Premier of Tasmania" stand up and say:

Speaker

My Government is committed to making meaningful social change for all Tasmanians. This Bill is an opportunity to reframe young people's understanding of community and their place within it.

The Minister has put a great deal of effort into consulting with community organisations and they all believe that this is a positive initiative for our State.

While helping others, young people will be able to explore new interests and passions through their volunteer work. By trying out various volunteer roles, they can gain exposure to different sectors and social causes, helping them discover their passions and potentially shape their career paths.

I urge all Members of the House of Assembly to vote for this excellent Bill

Then sit down.

GOVERNMENT WHIP

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

When the Speaker says “Whips, count votes and then come and tell me the results”, do exactly as they said.

Count the votes (people) on your side of the Chamber and go and tell the Speaker.

Don't forget to count yourself!

OPPOSITION WHIP

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

When the Speaker asks the Opposition Whip, "Is a Division required?" stand up and say:

Speaker,

A Division is required so the people of Tasmania can see exactly how their elected representatives voted. Thank you.

When the Speaker says "Whips, count votes and then come and tell me the results", do exactly as they said.

Count the votes (people) on your side of the Chamber and go and tell the Speaker.

Don't forget to count yourself!

LEADER OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Speaker will ask "Does the House wish to go into Committee?" You stand and say:

No thank you Speaker,

At the moment, the Opposition does not wish to propose any changes to the Bill, so the Committee stage is not required. However, if the 'upper House', the Legislative Council, amends this Bill, and it returns to the House of Assembly, the Opposition will carefully consider the proposed changes.

Then sit down.

MEMBER FOR CLARK

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CROSSBENCH

When the Speaker says "I call the Member for Clark" stand up and say:

Speaker,

I want the best outcomes for the Tasmanians I represent, so I am closely examining this Bill. On the whole, the Bill has merit. The idea that youth volunteering will create better adults is sound in my opinion.

While I support this Bill, I would also like to suggest an amendment.

I would like the Minister to increase the requirement to 20 hours per year, so that students can try 2 different volunteering roles each year. This will further increase their personal growth, and their extra work in the community will benefit us all.

Thank you.

Then sit down.

MEMBER FOR BASS

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

When the Speaker says "I call the Member for Bass" stand up and say:

Speaker

May I remind those Members opposite me that 10 hours volunteering over a whole year is not very much! Young people could easily give up some time on TikTok or Snapchat to help others in the community.

The volunteering can be undertaken in holidays when there are no academic pressures to consider.

We need to stop with the negativity and work together to make it happen!

I encourage all Members of the House to vote for this important bill

Then sit down.

MEMBER FOR BRADDON

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

When the Speaker says "I call the Member for Braddon" stand up and say:

Speaker,

My electorate of Braddon has traditionally struggled with high youth unemployment. Volunteering experience can significantly enhance young people's academic and employment applications. It demonstrates their commitment, dedication and initiative to potential institutions and employers, helping them stand out from other applicants. Volunteering can also serve as a valuable talking point during interviews, highlighting their diverse experiences and character.

I will vote for this Bill because I want young Tasmanians to have every opportunity to better themselves

Then sit down.

MEMBER FOR LYONS

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

When the Speaker says "I call the Member for Lyons" stand up and say:

Speaker,

I know that many young Tasmanians already face significant time constraints due to academic commitments, extracurricular activities, and personal responsibilities.

Mandating 10 hours of volunteering may increase stress on young people. It may impact their ability to manage their time effectively, their academic performance and overall well-being.

We should not be legislating to make young people's lives harder.

I will be voting against this Bill

Then sit down.

