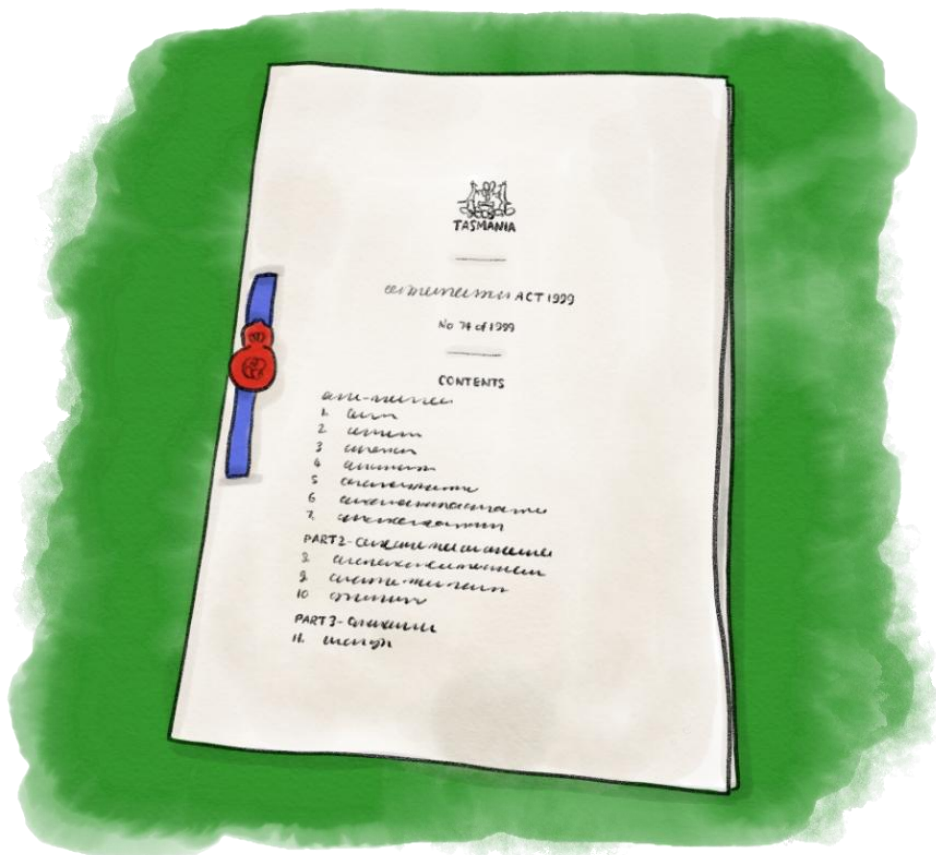


House of Assembly

Write your own classroom role-play

Student Scripts and Templates



ROLE-PLAY CAST LIST

The role-play incorporates scripted and unscripted parts. The Speaker, Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms have scripted roles, all others will write their own, using the template provided as a guide. 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	✓	☆☆☆	✗
Officers of the Parliament	Clerk of the House of Assembly (pronounced Clark)	✗	☆☆	✗
	Sergeant-at-Arms	✗	☆	✗
Government Members	Premier of Tasmania	✓		✓
	Minister	✓		✓
	Government Members	✓		✓
	Government Whip	✓		✓
Opposition Members	Leader of the Opposition	✓		✓
	Shadow Minister	✓		✓
	Opposition Members	✓		✓
	Opposition Whip	✓	☆	✓
Crossbench	Crossbench Members	✓		✓

CLERK

YOU ARE A PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER

Optional action: When instructed by your teacher, ring the bell for a few seconds.

When everyone is settled, stand up and clearly say:

**Members of Parliament and visitors to the House of Assembly,
please stand in silence for the Speaker's Procession.**

Stay standing until the Speaker instructs everyone to be seated.

*The Speaker will call upon you to read aloud the Standing Orders or rules of the House.
Stand up and say:*

- 1. Always act in a respectful manner and follow the Speaker's instructions.**
- 2. Stand up to speak but only begin speaking when the Speaker asks you to.**
- 3. All speeches are directed to the Speaker. Therefore, you need to begin your speech with Speaker.**
- 4. Except for the Minister responsible for the Bill, during the Second Reading you may only speak once.**
- 5. When you speak, you are speaking on behalf of the thousands of Tasmanians you represent.**

Sit down.

After the first vote on the Bill, the Speaker will ask you to read the title of the Bill for the first time. Stand and say:

A Bill for an Act to *(read the title of the Bill)*

Sit down.

At the end of the Second Reading debate, the Opposition will request a Division or a formal vote. The Speaker asks you to ring the bells. If you have a bell, ring it for a few seconds.

If the Bill passes the Second Reading (i.e. 'Ayes' win), the Speaker will ask you to read the Bill for a second time. Stand and say:

A Bill for an Act to *(read the title of the Bill)*

Sit down.

If the Bill passes the Third Reading, the Speaker will ask you to read the Bill for a third time. Stand and say:

A Bill for an Act to *(read the title of the Bill)*

Sit down.

When the Speaker says 'The House of Assembly has now finished our work for the day', stand and say:

Everyone stand up.

Everyone in the room stands while the Sergeant-at-Arms collects the Mace and leads the Speaker out of the room.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

YOU ARE A PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER

Stand in front of the Speaker, inside the main entrance of the room. If you have a Mace, place the head/top of the Mace on your right shoulder.

Once the Clerk has asked everyone to stand, announce the Speaker in a loud voice. Say:

The Speaker.

Lead the Speaker to their Chair. Place the Mace on the table in front of the Speaker's Chair with the head pointing towards the Government. Stand at your seat until the Speaker tells everyone to sit.

Towards the end of the Second Reading, the Opposition will request a Division or a formal vote on the Bill. The Speaker will say 'Sergeant-at-Arms lock the doors.' Go to the main door of the room, and pretend to lock it and guard it. Once the result of the Division is announced by the Speaker, return to your seat.

At the end of the role-play, the Speaker will say 'The House of Assembly has now finished our work for the day' and the Clerk will ask everyone to stand. While the Clerk is speaking, collect the Mace and carrying it over your right shoulder, lead the Speaker to the door.

SPEAKER'S OATH

SPEAKER'S SCRIPT

When asked by an adult, stand and say:

It is a great honour to be selected as Speaker and I accept the position. I wish to thank the Members of the House of Assembly for trusting me with this great responsibility.

I will ensure that we are all following the rules of the House.

I will treat all Members fairly and in a respectful manner.

During our time in the House of Assembly, please refer to me as Speaker.

Then sit down.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

YOU ARE THE PRESIDING OFFICER

After the Sergeant-at-Arms announces you, follow them to your seat. Remain standing and say:

We thank and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people for caring for this land on which we meet today.

Sit down.

Say:

Everyone, please sit down *(pause while everyone takes their seat).*

Pronunciation Tip: 'Clerk' is pronounced the same as the family name Clark.

The Standing Orders are the written rules of the House of Assembly. The Clerk will now read some of them to us.

The Clerk stands and reads the Standing Orders. When the Clerk has finished, say:

Thank you Clerk. The House of Assembly will now begin its work for the day. Does any Member of the House of Assembly have a Bill to introduce to Parliament?

The Minister stands and calls out to you. You reply:

I call the Minister to introduce the Bill.

Once the Minister has presented the Bill, say:

We will now have our first vote on the Bill. This vote determines if we wish to allocate time in the House of Assembly to debate this Bill. I remind Members it is a sign of a healthy democracy to debate issues, even if we disagree on them.

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

Those who agree say ‘Aye’ *(wait for Members to say ‘aye’).*

Those who disagree say ‘No’ *(wait for Members to say ‘no’).*

I think the ‘Ayes’ have the most votes *(pause).* **The ‘Ayes’ have it.**

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

The Clerk stands and reads the title of the Bill. When the Clerk is finished, say:

Members, the Second Reading is the most important stage of debate. It is when we discuss the main ideas of the Bill. I wish to hear arguments supporting the Bill, arguments opposing the Bill and ways to improve the Bill. By participating in thoughtful debate, the House of Assembly will make the best possible laws for the people of Tasmania.

I call the Minister to begin the Second Reading.

The Minister stands and delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:

I call the Shadow Minister.

The Shadow Minister delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:

I call the Member for *(call one of the crossbench Members).*

The crossbench Member delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:

I call the Premier of Tasmania.

The Premier delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:

I call the Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:

Would any other Member of the House of Assembly like to speak about this Bill?

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

Pick whoever stood first. Say:

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

Many students may wish to speak, so keep calling them one at a time. When everyone that wishes to speak has done so, say:

To conclude the debate, I call the Minister to reply to the Members' speeches.

The Minister stands and delivers their reply speech. When they have finished, say:

We will now have our second vote on this Bill.

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

Those who agree say 'Aye' *(wait for Members to say 'aye').*

Those who disagree say 'No' *(wait for Members to say 'no').*

I think the 'Ayes' have the most votes but I may need to check the result with a Division. Opposition Whip, would you like a Division?

The Opposition Whip answers you, requesting a division. When they have finished speaking, say:

A Division is required.

Clerk, ring the bells *(If you are using bells, pause while the Clerk rings them).*

Clerk, stop the bells.

Sergeant-at-Arms lock the doors *(pause while the Sergeant-at-Arms pretends to lock the doors).*

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

Those who agree with this Bill, move to the right of the Speaker's Chair.

Those who disagree with this Bill, move to the left of the Speaker's Chair.

Pause while all Members move to either side of the room.

Government Whip and Opposition Whip, count all the Members on your side of the Chamber, and then come and tell me the numbers.

The Government Whip and the Opposition Whip will tell you their numbers and you announce the results with one of the following statements:

(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.

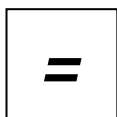
As the Bill has not passed, the House of Assembly will no longer debate it. There is no change to the existing Tasmanian laws.

*Clerk does not read the title of the Bill. Skip to the adjournment, marked with an asterix *.*

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.

(If the 'Ayes' win) **Clerk, read the title of the Bill a second time.**

(If the 'Noes' win) *Skip to the adjournment, marked with an asterix.*

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

If the Bill passes the Second Reading, ask if the Members wish to move into Committee Stage by saying:

Members may wish to suggest some amendments or changes to the Bill. However, this can only happen during Committee stage of a Bill debate. Therefore, does the House of Assembly wish to go into Committee of the whole House?

The Shadow Minister replies. When they have finished, say:

We will now finish our work on the Bill by voting on it for the third and final time.

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

Those who agree say 'Aye' (wait for Members to say 'aye').

Those who disagree say 'No' (wait for Members to say 'no').

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

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

The Clerk stands to read the title of the Bill.

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 of Assembly concludes work for the day with the Adjournment from the Speaker.

Say:

***The House of Assembly has now finished our work for the day.**

The Clerk asks everyone to stand up. Stand up and follow the Sergeant-at-Arms to the door.

MINISTER

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

When the Speaker asks, 'Does any Member of the House of Assembly have a Bill to introduce to Parliament?' stand up and call out:

Speaker.

Remain standing.

When the Speaker says 'I call the Minister to introduce the Bill' you say:

Speaker,
I present the *(read Bill title).*

Sit down.

After the Clerk reads the title of the Bill for the first time, the Speaker will call you to begin the Second Reading. Stand up and say:

Speaker,

It is my pleasure to introduce this essential Bill to the House of Assembly. This Bill will...*(explain the goal and positive outcomes of the Bill)*

(Conclude your argument by saying)

I ask all Members of the House of Assembly to vote for this Bill.

Sit down.

At the end of the Second Reading, you will be called by the Speaker to deliver your reply speech. Stand up and say:

Speaker,

Thank you to all the House of Assembly Members who spoke during the debate on this important Bill. As Members of Parliament, it is our job to speak in this Chamber on behalf of the Tasmanians we represent.

(Restate the goal of the Bill and respond to the arguments made and questions asked by other Members during the debate)

I ask the House of Assembly that we now have our second vote on the Bill.

Sit down.

SHADOW MINISTER

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:

Speaker,

The Opposition will not be supporting this Bill because...

(state the main problem/s with the Bill)

I encourage all Members of the House of Assembly to vote against this Bill.

Sit down.

If the Bill passes the Second Reading, the Speaker will ask, 'Does the House of Assembly wish to go into Committee of the whole House?' Stand up and say:

No thank you Speaker,

The Opposition does not want to move into Committee because we do not want to make any changes to the Bill at the moment.

Sit down.

PREMIER OF TASMANIA

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:

Speaker,

This is an excellent Bill for Tasmania because... *(write your speech in support of the Bill)*

I encourage all Members of the House of Assembly to agree to the Bill now.

Sit down.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:

Speaker,

I am concerned about this Bill because... *(write your speech in opposition to the Bill)*

I cannot vote for this Bill.

Sit down.

GOVERNMENT MEMBER

When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:

Speaker,

(write your speech in support of the Bill)

Let's all vote in favour of this Bill.

Sit down.

CROSSBENCH MEMBER

When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:

Speaker,

(write your speech outlining your arguments for or against the Bill)

At the conclusion of your contribution, state whether you will or won't support the Bill.

Sit down.

OPPOSITION MEMBER

When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:

Speaker,

(write your speech in opposition to the Bill)

I urge all Members to vote against this Bill.

Sit down.

OPPOSITION WHIP

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

When the Speaker says, 'I think the Ayes have the most votes but I may need to check the result with a Division. Opposition Whip, would you like a Division?' Stand up and say:

Speaker,

The Opposition would like a Division because we want to know exactly how many Members, and which Members of the House of Assembly are voting for and against the Bill. Thank you.

Sit down.

During the Division, Members will move to either the left side or right side of the room. Then the Speaker will say, 'Government Whip and Opposition Whip, count all the Members on your side of the Chamber, and then come and tell me the numbers.'

Count everyone on your side. Don't forget to count yourself!

Walk to the Speaker and tell them the number.

GOVERNMENT WHIP

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

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