

TEACHER NOTES FOR USING THE HAEO DIORAMA IN THE CLASSROOM

Why use the HAEO diorama?

Education through drama is a powerful and highly engaging learning experience for many students, and as such, the HAEO diorama utilises puppetry techniques to teach Civics and Citizenship Education.

How can I support my students using the diorama?

To scaffold student learning, the HAEO strongly advises that classes either visit Parliament House to participate in a HAEO role-play or the class teacher leads a role-play at school, prior to introducing the diorama to students. The Parliament of Tasmania website contains free step-by-step support material for teachers to facilitate a class role-play. Excursions to Parliament House can be booked via the website.

Why are cartoon Tasmanian devils in the diorama?

The configuration of the House of Assembly changes with every state election, while the diorama is designed to remain timeless. It is not intended to be an exact replica of the current House of Assembly nor any particular Member of Parliament. The use of Tasmanian devils aims to make learning appealing and accessible to students.

Is this an individual task or group work?

Student group size is flexible when students are working with the diorama. It could be an individual task, paired students, small groups or a combination of these. It could even be the stimulus for an extension task. Teachers should apply their professional judgement based on their student needs and class dynamic. It would be wise to have a brainstorm session or 'party meetings' prior to the students using the diorama, for students to plan their arguments for/against the Bill, including rebuttal points.

Can I print the diorama at school?

The diorama is designed to print on a standard school photocopier/printer. Please note the Chamber backdrop works best if printed onto A3. It will print in black and white.

Can students write their own 'Bills' for the diorama?

Bills have a variety of sources including suggestions from young people. Students need to know their voices are important in a democracy. If using student generated topics, teachers should guide students towards state-based issues, to reinforce the divisions of power concept, with debate focussed on the facts of the issue at hand rather than opinions. Remind students to remain respectful of the House of Assembly (and each other) during mock debates.

Can I use the diorama in other learning areas?

The diorama would be useful when students are operating in the productive modes of English, especially when learning the techniques of persuasive writing and delivery. It could provide a safe entry point into public speaking for students that are very shy or have additional learning needs.

