

Law-Making script

The Parliament of Australia
The House of Representatives

The No Homework Bill

A Bill for an Act to ban homework in all
Australian schools

THE SPEAKER

When you are led in by the Serjeant-at-Arms, sit down and say:

 **Members, please sit down. The House is now in session. The rules of the House must be obeyed. Clerk, please read out the rules.**

After the Clerk has read out the rules, say:

 **Clerk, read the title of the bill.**

Then say:

 **I call the Minister for Education to introduce the bill.**

The Minister speaks.

 **I call the Shadow Minister for Education.**

Member speaks.

 **I call the Member for Holt.**

Member speaks.

 **I call the Member for Brisbane.**

Member speaks.

 **I call the Member for Denison.**

Member speaks.

 **Order! The House is now adjourned.**

The Serjeant-at-Arms will come and lead you from the chamber.

When the debate begins again, choose members to speak in turn.



Stand if you wish to speak.

I call the Member for _____ *(use first of second name)*

When the time for debating is over, say:



Order! A vote on the bill will now be taken.

The question is should the bill be read a second time.

Those who agree say 'AYE' *(let them say 'aye')*

Those who disagree say 'NO' *(let them say 'no')*

I think the 'Ayes' have it.

Order! Opposition Whip, is a division required?

Wait for an answer. If a division is required say:



Division is required.

Clerk, ring the bells for 4 minutes. *(wait)*

Order! 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.

Wait for everyone to settle in place then say:



Whips, count the vote.

When the whips have counted the votes and told you the result, stand up and say:



Order! Result of the division:

The number of votes for the bill is ____

The number of votes against the bill is _____

If the vote is FOR the bill, say:

If the vote is AGAINST the bill, say:



OR



**The bill is agreed to. Clerk read
the title of the bill a second time.**



The bill is not agreed to.

To end the session, say:



Order! The House is now adjourned.


Follow the Serjeant-at-Arms out of the chamber.

THE CLERK

To begin the session stand up, ring the bell and say:

 **Honourable members, please stand.**

When the Speaker asks you to read the rules, stand up and say:

 **Always stand up to speak.**
Begin your speech with the words ‘Madam Speaker’ or ‘Mr Speaker’.
Members should not interrupt each other.
The Speaker keeps order.

When the Speaker asks you to read the title of the bill stand and say:

 **First reading, the No Homework Bill. A Bill for an Act to ban homework in all Australian schools.**

If you hear the Speaker say ‘Order, the House is now adjourned’, stand up, ring the bell and say:

 **Honourable members, please stand.**

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

 **Second reading, the No Homework Bill. A Bill for an Act to ban homework in all Australian schools.**

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

When the Clerk rings the bell, lead the Speaker into the chamber, carrying the Mace on your right shoulder.

Say:

 **Honourable members, the Speaker.**

Place the Mace on the table, then sit down.

When you hear the Speaker say ‘the House is now adjourned’ stand up, take the Mace from the table and lead the Speaker out of the room.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

 Mr/Madam Speaker,

I am pleased to introduce this bill to the House.

After spending many hours at school, students are tired and don't need to do more school work. If we ban homework, children will have more time for other activities like sport and music.

SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

 Mr/Madam Speaker,

I am going to vote against this bill.

Studies show that homework helps children remember what they learn in school. If homework is banned, children will just waste more time playing video games.

MEMBER FOR HOLT

YOU ARE A GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHER (VICTORIA)

 Mr/Madam Speaker,

I am going to vote for this bill.

Parents have to supervise homework and sometimes even do their children's homework for them. This doesn't help anyone.

A happy home is one without any homework!

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE

YOU ARE AN OPPOSITION BACKBENCHER (QUEENSLAND)

 Mr/Madam Speaker,

I am going to vote against this bill.

Homework teaches good study habits and shows students that learning can happen outside school. A better education means a better future for Australian children!

MEMBER FOR DENISON

YOU ARE AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER (TASMANIA)

 Mr/Madam Speaker,

I am concerned that students are doing too much homework. However, I cannot support this bill as it is.

Later, I will suggest a change to the bill to limit homework to one hour a week for primary students and two hours a week for high school students.

GOVERNMENT WHIP

When the Speaker says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the members on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself and the Prime Minister.

Go and tell the Speaker the results.

OPPOSITION WHIP

When the Speaker asks 'is a division required?' stand up and say:

 **Mr/Madam Speaker, a division is required.**

When the Speaker says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the members on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself and the Leader of the Opposition.

Go and tell the Speaker the results.