



MEETING 3: MOCK COMMITTEE HEARING

When it involves other people, it's a 'special interest.' When it affects you, then it's an extremely important issue." State Senator Jim Costa, California

Prior to Meeting 3

- Remind members of meeting and to bring registrations if not yet handed in
- Review all material in the coordinator's packet
- Review all material in the curriculum packet, especially Meeting 3
- Remind members to bring their research for texting while driving and intermediate driver license restrictions
- Arrange for a lobbyist/concerned citizen to come talk at the meeting
- Arrange for three adult volunteers to serve as committee chair and legislators
- View committee hearing videos via TVW website
- Materials needed:
 - Paper and Writing Utensils
 - Flip charts and pens
 - Internet access
 - Food and snacks
 - Copies of:
 - Hints for Testifying to the Legislature (handout section)
 - Guide to Effective Legislative Participation (<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/WorkingwithLeg/effectiveparticipation.htm>)
 - How to Testify in Committee (<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/WorkingwithLeg/testify.htm>)
 - How to Read a Bill (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/documents/legislature/backtoschool/howtoread.pdf>)
 - Documents for 1214 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1214&year=2007> (Original Bill and House Bill Analysis near bottom of page)
 - Documents for 5469 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5469&year=2009> (Original Bill and Senate Bill Report near bottom of page)
 - Bill Report Format (Handout section)

Objectives of Meeting 3

- ❖ Participate in mock committee hearing
- ❖ View committee hearings
- ❖ Choose bills for conference

Activity 10: Mock Committee Hearing

Life Skill Objectives: Communication

~speaking+ talking or verbal communication; planning, organizing and presenting a speech

~listening+ hearing and interpreting verbal communications

~giving feedback+ responding to communications from others

EALRs: Communication-3.1 Use knowledge of topic/theme, audience, and purpose to plan presentations.

3.3 Use effective delivery.

Social Studies-1.4 Understand civic involvement.

5.2 Use inquiry-based research.

5.3 Deliberate public issues.

1. Handout the **Hints for Testifying to the Legislature** (handout section), **Guide to Effective Legislative Participation** at www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/EffectiveParticipation.aspx, **How to Testify in Committee** at www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Testify.aspx and **How to Read a Bill** at www.leg.wa.gov/BackToSchool/Documents/howtoread.pdf. Go over these documents and discuss the helpful hints given.
2. Handout bill documents for 1214 and 5469 to delegates and volunteers.
3. Assign following roles to delegates:
 - a. Lobbyist for the bill-You are a lobbyist for an organization that deals with the issue. You are in favor of a proposal to address the issue. You will present testimony supporting the proposed bill.
 - b. Lobbyist against the bill-You are a lobbyist in opposition to the proposed bill. You will present testimony against it.
 - c. Concerned citizen-You are a citizen with strong feelings regarding this issue. You will present the emotional testimony in favor of the need for the bill.
4. Assign the following roles to adult volunteers:
 - a. Committee Chair
 - i. Duties include calling the hearing to order
 - ii. Announcing subject of the hearing (Transportation)
 - iii. Ask for a bill to address the issue
 - iv. Call for testimony for and against the bill
 - v. Call for comments from legislators
 - vi. Ask for amendments
 - vii. Allow further debate, if necessary
 - viii. Call for vote from the legislators
 - ix. Repeat process for other bills
 - x. Adjourn the hearing
 - b. Legislator-You are a legislator who is concerned about the issue and want to do something about it. You will propose the bill at the beginning of the hearing to address the issue and then speak in favor of it.
 - c. Legislator-You are a legislator who has very little knowledge of the issue and are seeking information so you can make an informed decision. You may ask questions of the people testifying and your fellow legislators.
5. Have delegates switch roles for the second bill so they have practice testifying for and against a bill.
6. Give time to lobbyists (delegates) to prepare testimony and legislators (volunteers) to prepare questions. Set up the hearing room with a table for the chair and legislators facing a table for people testifying. For lobbyists speaking against the bill, part of their testimony should include amendment suggestions to make the bill one they would support.
7. Conduct mock committee hearing
 - a. Lobbyists and concerned citizen address the chair by saying, "Mr./Madam Chair, I wish to speak in favor of/against this bill." Wait to be recognized by the chair and then make your statement. After your statement, wait for questions.
 - b. Legislators address the chair by saying "Mr./Madam Chair, I would like to ask a question/make a statement."

8. After adjourning the meeting, have volunteers provide positive feedback and suggestions for improvement to the group as a whole in terms of presentation skills and information provided.
9. Review actual committee hearings to see what points were made for and against the bills.

HB 1214: To hear testimony, click on the link and go to the time listed.

House Public Hearing: 00:00:00-Overview of driver distractions (work session) along with public testimony

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2007020148&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

House Floor Debate: 03:18:15

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2007030121B&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

SB 5469: To hear testimony, click on the link and go to the time listed.

Senate Public Hearing: 01:32:15

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009021033&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

Senate Executive Hearing: 01:14:15

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009021130&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

Senate Floor Debate: 01:20:43

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009030034&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

House Public Hearing: 00:30:30

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009031054&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

House Executive Hearing: 01:13:00

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009031165&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

House Floor Debate: 00:28:05

<http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009040078A&TYPE=V&CFID=3755787&CFOKEN=40924745&bhcp=1>

Reflect: (So What?)

Did you feel prepared to participate in the mock hearing?

How did the mock committee hearing testimony compare to the actual testimony?

What presentations skills are the most effective?

Apply: (Now What?)

What will you want to do to prepare to testify at the conference?

Activity 11: Pick Your Bills for the Conference

Life Skill Objectives: Social Skills

~showing respect and consideration for others

~expressing feelings appropriately

~disagreeing appropriately

A list of bills will be provided by the KYG Core Committee via the KYG website. You may choose one of these bills or create one of your own using the Revised Code of Washington. If you decide to write your own bill, please make sure the format matches those of other bills.

To find bill language, go to www.leg.wa.gov and click on "Bill Information" on the left. Type in the bill number and click on "Search". Click on "Go to Documents" or scroll to the bottom of the page to find "Original Bill".

Choose one bill for every four delegates. *These four delegates are to be the lobbyist team that will testify for this bill and against bills that oppose the ideas in the chosen bill.*

Once the team chooses a bill, assign someone to complete a bill report using the **Bill Analysis Format** at the end of this section.

Assign the rest of the lobbyist team to research information for testimony:

- Problem identification or description of problem (Background information)
- How bill solves the problem (Summary of bill)
- Advantages
- Disadvantages
- Who supports the bill
- Who opposes the bill

At the end of Meeting 3

- Remind everyone of next meeting
- Remind everyone about fundraising
- Assign delegates to create bill analysis
- Assign delegates to research their bill topics

"A generation that acquires knowledge without ever understanding how that knowledge can benefit the community is a generation that is not learning what it means to be citizens in a democracy."

-- Elizabeth L. Hollander (1817-1885)

"The efforts of the government alone will never be enough. In the end the people must choose and the people must help themselves."

-- John F. Kennedy

Handouts for Meeting 3

Hints for Testifying to the Legislature

MESSAGE - Personal, Positive, Powerful

- Personal - You have credibility. Tell your story. Most of the time, you've been invited not to give them the facts about an issue or problem, but your perspective. Connect everything back to students.
- Positive - Legislators are frequently whined at. DO NOT WHINE, GRIPE OR COMPLAIN. Think about how to describe the issue honestly - the challenges, the barriers to helping students succeed - but project the attitude that the problem is solvable and they have the capacity to make the improvements you are asking for.
- Powerful - Choose three points and then be clear, concise and convincing. Choose one student or one vignette to relate - you won't have much time.

PRACTICALITIES

- Do some homework. Write down the name of the Chair, remember it, and look up his/her picture on the website. Know the number of the bill. Know whether you are FOR or AGAINST. You'll need to declare.
- Make some notes on a small card or a single sheet of paper. Bullets that will help you remember your three points, not full sentences or paragraphs.
- If you know there are several people making a coordinated effort, make sure the rest of your team knows your bullet points and you know theirs. You don't want to repeat or conflict. Plan to meet for coffee or lunch just prior to the session to polish together.
- Practice with a clock - keep your comments to three really good minutes. You don't have to say everything - if you keep it short and they have questions, there will be time for them to ask.
- All sessions are recorded. Some are broadcast on TVW. You don't get to decline, so be prepared. Dress conservatively, without loud patterns on your tie or blouse or jacket.

WHEN YOU GET THERE

- At the door of the hearing room, sign in. Check the box that says you want to testify and then indicate whether you are for or against.
- If you have handouts to distribute, give them to the staff when you come into the room. Make 20 copies. Paginate or color-code if you want to refer to a page during your testimony. You don't have to - you can just say you've provided background info or further detail in your packet.

YOUR SHINING MOMENT

- When you are called, take your notes and sit at the table. Arrange the mike. It will be on - don't ask. You begin with...

“Thank you, Chair _____. For the record, my name is _____. I am from _____ school in _____ district. I am here to speak in support of/against this bill.”
Then take a breath, look down at your bullets, and go on with your testimony.

- When you are finished, ask if anyone has questions. Answer with brevity. If you don't know, tell them you'll need to find out and give the information to staff.
- Often you will be interrupted by questions. The members direct their questions through the Chair. You take your cues from the Chair. If the Chair interrupts, answer the questions asked of you, then look back down at your notes to get yourself back on track. If the Chair tells you they are almost out of time, give them just one more sentence and close with a reference to how they can locate your contact information. (If you don't have handouts, state your school and district again - they all have school directories).
- If at all possible, stay through the rest of the hearing. They are just two hours - and it looks better if you look interested in the entire topic, not just your part.

BILL ANALYSIS
(HB or SB) 0000
(Name of Committee bill is assigned to)

February 13, 2010

Title: An act relating to...

Brief Description:

Sponsors: (Insert sponsors listed on bill in order as written)

<p>Brief Summary of Bill (One or two short summary sentences)</p>

Staff: Name of person who completed report.

Background:

Summary of Bill:

Fiscal Note: (Either available or not available)

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: (Yes or No)

Effective Date: If a bill does not list an effective date, the bill is effective "Ninety days after session."