

## Committee Role Play

### Inquiry into extending school hours

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

### Preparation

You are Chair of the Education Committee. You are conducting a public hearing for the inquiry into extended school hours, which would extend school hours to between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

The following witness groups will appear before the committee to answer your questions about this issue:

**Group 1.** Department of Education

**Group 2.** Teachers Union

**Group 3.** Parents' Association

You need to think of questions to ask each group during the public hearing.

After the committee hears from these witness groups and the public hearing has finished, you will write a report based on the evidence presented. The report can recommend to support or oppose extending school hours, or to make changes to the idea.

Below are examples of questions you might like to ask.

- How will extending school hours improve/hinder the lives of students?
- Would students prefer the extended school hours?
- Would parents/guardians/family members prefer the extended school hours?
- What impacts will extending school hours have on the community?
- What changes would be necessary to enable schools to operate for the extended hours?
- Who is your witness group speaking for and what evidence do they have to support their position?
- What methods did your witness group use to find its evidence?

Write some questions you might like to ask the witnesses here.

# COMMITTEE CHAIR

## Script

**Committee Chair:** “I declare open this hearing of the Education Committee for the inquiry into extending school hours. I welcome all the invited representative groups. The terms of reference are to determine:

1. the advantages and disadvantages of extending school hours to between 9.00am and 5.00pm, and
2. what changes would be necessary to enable schools to operate for the extended hours.

The committee will now hear from several witness groups who have expressed interest in the inquiry.”

After your opening statement, say:

“I welcome representatives from (choose a group below):

**Group 1. Department of Education**

**Group 2. Teachers Union**

**Group 3. Parents’ Association**

**Please approach the table.”**

Allow the witness group to approach the table and sit down.

**Committee Chair:** “Please state your names for the Hansard record.”

Allow each witness time to say their names.

**Committee Chair:** “Do you wish to read a statement to the committee?”

Allow the spokesperson to read their statement.

After the groups opening statement has been read, say:

**Committee Chair:** “Committee members, do you have any questions for the witness group?”

Give each committee a chance to ask a question.

After the questions have finished:

**Committee Chair:** “I thank the representatives from (witness group name) for coming today.”

Repeat the above for each witness group.

After all the witness groups have been heard:

**Committee Chair:** “This committee inquiry is now adjourned. The committee will consider the evidence heard here today and will write its report. The report will be tabled in the Parliament.”

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Preparation

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**Group 1.** Department of Education

**Group 2.** Teachers Union

**Group 3.** Parents' Association

You need to think of questions to ask each group during the public hearing.

After the committee hears from these witness groups and the public hearing has finished, you will write a report based on the evidence presented. The report can recommend to support or oppose extending school hours, or to make changes to the idea.

Below are examples of questions you might like to ask.

- How will extending school hours improve/hinder the lives of students?
- Would students prefer extended school hours?
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- What impacts will extending school hours have on the community?
- What changes would be necessary to enable schools to operate for the extended hours?
- Who is your witness group speaking for and what evidence do they have to support their position?
- What methods did your witness group use to find its evidence?

Write some questions you might like to ask the witnesses here.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## Script

After the witness group has read their opening statement:

**Committee Chair:** “Committee members, do you have any questions for the witness group?”

**Committee:** “Thank you Mr/Madam Chair and Committee Members. I would like to ask the representative this question:”

(witness group name)

Write your questions here.

Example question for:

**Department of Education**

Has the department thought of making the school week longer by having school on Saturdays?

**Teachers Union**

Would teachers agree to work longer school hours if they were paid more?

**Parents' Association**

Would children be safer if school hours were longer?

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Preparation

You are a representative of the Department of Education. You **SUPPORT** increasing school hours. It's your job to convince the committee that increasing school hours is a **GOOD** idea.

Write a statement outlining your group's view. While you are doing this you may want to consider the following questions:

- Would it make better use of expensive school buildings?
- Is there is too much to learn but not enough time in the present school day?
- Are students with working parents going home to empty houses or expensive childcare because of the current school hours?
- Would longer hours mean no need for homework?
- What research have you done to back up your claim?

Write some ideas for your statement here.

A committee member may ask you a question about your statement. What questions do you think the committee might ask you?

Brainstorm some potential responses to those questions here.

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Script

**Committee Chair:** “I welcome representatives from the Department of Education. Please approach the table.”

Approach the table and sit down.

**Committee Chair:** “Please state your names for the Hansard record.”

**Department of Education:** **“Thank you Committee Chair. We are the Department of Education.”**

**Committee Chair:** “Do you wish to read a statement to the committee?”

**Department of Education:** **“We believe that...”**

Write your statement here.

When you have finished your speech:

**Department of Education:** **“Thank you to the Committee for giving us this opportunity to present our views.”**

You will be asked a question by a Member of the Committee. Try to think of a good answer.

**Committee:** (committee question)

**Department of Education:** (your response)

When the Committee Chair thanks you, return to your seat.

## Committee Role Play

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## TEACHERS UNION

### Preparation

You are a representative of the Teachers' Union. You **OPPOSE** increasing school hours. It's your job to convince the committee that increasing school hours is **NOT** a good idea.

Write a statement outlining your group's view. While you are doing this you may want to consider the following questions:

- Are teachers already too busy and stressed?
- Can students work for that long or would they get tired?
- Would it would cost more because teachers would have to be paid more?
- Would schools finishing at the same time as other businesses make peak hour traffic worse?
- Would be a shortage of public transport available?
- What research have you done to back up your claim?

Write some ideas for your statement here.

A committee member may ask you a question about your statement. What questions do you think the committee might ask you?

Brainstorm some potential responses to those questions here.

# TEACHERS UNION

## Script

**Committee Chair:** "I welcome representatives from Teachers Union. Please approach the table."

Approach the table and sit down.

**Committee Chair:** "Please state your names for the Hansard record."

**Teachers Union:** "**Thank you Committee Chair. We are Teachers Union.**"

**Committee Chair:** "Do you wish to read a statement to the committee?"

**Teachers Union:** "**We believe that...**"

Write your statement here

When you have finished your speech:

**Teachers Union:** "**Thank you to the Committee for giving us this opportunity to present our views.**"

You will be asked a question by a Member of the Committee. Try to think of a good answer.

**Committee:** (committee question)

**Teachers Union:** (your response)

When the Committee Chair thanks you, return to your seat.

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## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### Preparation

You are a representative of the Parents' Association. You can see both good and bad points to this idea. It's your job to tell the Committee how you feel about extended school hours.

Write a statement outlining your group's view. While you are doing this you may want to consider the following questions:

- Would it be safer for children to be supervised in school until parents finish work?
- Would it be less safe for children travelling home from school during peak hour traffic or after it's dark?
- Would it take the stress off parents worrying where their children are and what they're doing between 3pm and 5pm?
- Would it make better use of the schools and cut down vandalism?
- Would your children be more tired and cranky?
- Would it cost more to operate the school for extra hours and mean more taxes or school fees?

Write some ideas for your statement here.

A committee member may ask you a question about your statement. What questions do you think the committee might ask you?

Brainstorm some potential responses to those questions here.

# PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Script

**Committee Chair:** "I welcome representatives from Teachers Union. Please approach the table."

Approach the table and sit down.

**Committee Chair:** "Please state your names for the Hansard record."

**Parents' Association:** "**Thank you Committee Chair. We are Parents' Association.**"

**Committee Chair:** "Do you wish to read a statement to the committee?"

**Parents' Association:** "**We believe that...**"

Write your statement here.

When you have finished your speech:

**Parents' Association:** "**Thank you to the Committee for giving us this opportunity to present our views.**"

You will be asked a question by a Member of the Committee. Try to think of a good answer.

**Committee:** (committee question)

**Parents' Association:** (your response)

When the Committee Chair thanks you, return to your seat.