

The Bill

The No Homework Bill

A Bill for an Act to stop teachers setting homework in all South Australian Schools.

This Bill aims to increase the amount of free time available to students of schools by abolishing the setting of homework.

The Bill stops teachers setting any work outside school hours including reading or viewing of materials intended for use in school activities.

This copy of the Bill is given to the Facilitator.

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The Speaker

The Speaker is the person who chairs the meeting, understands the Standing Orders (rules) and maintains order in the House of Assembly. The mace is a symbol of the Speaker's authority.

Maintaining Parliamentary order

Remember to introduce each person by their name eg Member for Julie.

Suggested statements to keep order:

'Order! There is far too much noise in the chamber!'

'Order! Honourable Members of the Opposition/Government are making far too much noise!'

'Order! The Honourable Member for _____ will stop interjecting!'

SUSPENSION SCRIPT

*If any Member persistently obstructs the business of the House, or breaks one of the rules of the Parliament, the Speaker can suspend the MP for **5 minutes** (in the real Parliament up to one hour). In our Student Parliament the student could sit at the back of the chamber, beyond the bar, rather than leave the room.*

Speaker: The Member for (e.g. Julie or Jack) is suspended for 5 minutes and will leave the chamber.

After 5 minutes has passed:

Speaker: The Member for (e.g. Julie or Jack) may return to their seat in the chamber.

NO CLAPPING SCRIPT

Speaker: The Members of the House are reminded that clapping is not permitted in the chamber under any circumstances.

(Facilitator reads the Bill to everyone)

Facilitator: The Bill we are discussing today is ...

The Opening

(Clerk stands and rings the bell)

Clerk: **Honourable Members please stand.**

(Serjeant-at-Arms and Speaker enter from the centre aisle at the opposite end of the room to the Speaker's chair. Serjeant-at-Arms places mace on right shoulder, stands and walks in front of the Speaker. The Speaker follows one metre behind)

(Serjeant-at-Arms stops two metres into the aisle and stands to the side. The Speaker stays slightly behind the Serjeant-at-Arms and waits to be announced)

(Serjeant-at-Arms announces the Speaker to all the Members)

(Speaker steps in front of the Serjeant-at-Arms and bows to the Government. Government bows back)

(Speaker bows to the Opposition. Opposition bows back)

(Speaker walks to the Speaker's chair and sits down)

(Serjeant-at-Arms follows behind the Speaker and places the mace on a table in front of the Speaker with the crown facing the Government side. The Serjeant-at-Arms walks to his/her seat)

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

(Clerk stands, reads rules, sits)

Speaker: **The No Homework Bill will now be debated. Clerk please read out the Bill.**

(Clerk stands, reads Bill, sits)

The Debate

Speaker: I call on the Minister for Education to introduce the Bill.

(The Minister for Education stands, introduces and speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

(The Leader of the Opposition stands and speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Premier.

(The Premier stands and speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Shadow Minister for Education

(The Shadow Minister for Education stands and speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Wattle.

(The Member for Wattle stands and speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Protea.

The Member for Protea stands and speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Sturt Desert Pea.

(The Member for Sturt Desert Pea stands and speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Kangaroo Paw.

(The Member for Kangaroo Paw speaks to the Bill)

Speaker: I call on the Minister for Education.

(The Minister for Education stands and speaks to the Bill)

(The Speaker asks if anyone wishes to speak on the Bill. The Speaker chooses members in turn from Government, Opposition and Independents or Minority Parties, if represented. The Speaker chooses people to speak by saying Member for _____ using their first name e.g. Member for Julie or Member for Vu. Once chosen the remainder of the people standing sit down and wait to be called to stand again by the Speaker.)

Speaker: Does anyone wish to speak on the Bill? Stand if you wish to speak.

Speaker: Member for _____

(The Speaker repeats these two lines each time someone chooses to speak)

(When the Facilitator feels that the whole group has contributed, run the Vote.)

The Vote

Speaker: A vote on the Bill will now be taken. Clerk, read the title of the Bill again.

(Clerk stands, reads the Bill, sits)

Speaker: Members who wish to support the Bill, please sit on my right hand side. Members who oppose the Bill, please sit on my left-hand side. Government and Opposition Whips please come out to count the vote.

(Clerk stands and rings the bell while the Members decide on which side they wish to vote)

(When the vote has been counted the Whips will whisper the result to the Speaker and announce the results to the Parliament)

Speaker: The result of the vote is ____ for and ____ against.

*(If the vote is **for** the Bill the Speaker will say)*

Speaker: The Bill has been passed. Serjeant, please take the Bill to the Legislative Council.

OR

*(If the vote is **against** the Bill the Speaker will say)*

Speaker: The Bill has not been passed. We will move to the next item of Business for the Day.

OR

*(If the vote is **tied** the Speaker will say)*

Speaker: There being equal votes for and against the Bill I cast my vote for the Bill because I believe the ideas put forward by the Honourable Members has made me decide to vote for the Bill.

The Clerk

The Clerk has a clear understanding of the Standing Orders (rules) and provides advice to the Speaker on chairing the House of Assembly. The Clerk calls items of business, reads titles of Bills and announces petitions. The Clerk is not politically aligned to any political party.

(If at Parliament, dress up in the traditional costume)

(Clerk stands and rings the bell)

Clerk: Honourable Members please stand.

(The Serjeant-at-Arms escorts the Speaker into the room. The Speaker asks Members to sit down and then opens Parliament. The Speaker asks the Clerk to read out the rules of the Parliament)

(Clerk stands)

Clerk:

- 1. Always stand up to speak.**
- 2. Always address your remarks through the Speaker. Address the Speaker as 'Madam Speaker' or 'Mr. Speaker'.**
- 3. Members speak without interruption.**
- 4. The Speaker keeps order.**

(Clerk sits)

(The Speaker asks the Clerk to read out the Bill. Clerk stands)

Clerk: The No Homework Bill
A Bill for an Act to stop teachers setting homework in all South Australian Schools.

(Clerk sits)

(The Speaker asks the Clerk to read out the Bill again after the debate and before the vote)

(Clerk stands)

Clerk: The No Homework Bill
A Bill for an Act to stop teachers setting homework in all South Australian Schools.

(Clerk sits)

(The Speaker invites Members stand and vote)

(Clerk stands and rings the bell while the Members decide on which side they wish to vote)

Serjeant-at-Arms

The Serjeant-at-Arms assists the Clerk in their duties. In South Australia this includes a ceremonial role of carrying the Mace and escorting the Speaker to enter the Chamber at the beginning of the meeting. The Serjeant-at-Arms takes part in ceremonial activities and is responsible for security and providing services to Members and visitors.

(If at Parliament, dress up in the traditional costume)

(The Serjeant-at-Arms and the Speaker enter from the centre aisle at the opposite end of the room to the Speaker's chair. The Serjeant-at-Arms places mace on right shoulder, stands and walks in front of the Speaker. The Speaker follows one metre behind)

(The Serjeant-at-Arms stops two metres into the aisle and stands to the side. The Speaker stands slightly behind and waits to be announced)

Serjeant-at-Arms: Honourable Members, the Speaker.

(The Serjeant-at-Arms steps aside. The Speaker steps in front and bows to the Government)

(The Government bows back)

(The Speaker bows to the Opposition)

(The Opposition bows back)

(The Speaker walks to the Speaker's chair and sits down)

(The Serjeant-at-Arms follows behind the Speaker and places the Mace on a table in front of the Speaker with the crown facing the Government side. The Serjeant-at-Arms walks to his/her seat)

Member for Kurrajong

Minister for Education

The Ministers sit on the front benches and are responsible for various portfolios such as Education, Health and Transport. The Education Department is responsible to the Minister for Education. The Minister for Education is responsible to the Parliament. The Minister for Education is the first speaker in the debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Government)

(The Government bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Minister for Education to introduce the Bill.

(The Minister for Education stands, introduces and speaks to the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

I am very pleased to introduce this wonderful new idea to the schools of South Australia.

Our Government has thought carefully about the family life of our young people here in South Australia. Young children in primary school should have time to spend with their families playing and enjoying family celebrations and sharing activities with their whole family.

Homework takes the children away from their families making them do individual tasks which are often not very useful and certainly not much fun.

(The Minister for Education will be called upon to speak again at the end of the debate to summarise the ideas and try to influence everyone to vote with the Government)

(The Minister for Education stands)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

My Government thinks this is a very important issue and believes this Bill should be put into schools immediately. Children spend too much time on meaningless tasks and should be enjoying their family life at this young age.

Member for Boronia

Leader of the Opposition

The Leader of the Opposition leads the Opposition Party. The opposition is the major political party that won the second most seats in the House of Assembly during the last election.

The Leader of the Opposition is the second speaker in the debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Opposition)

(The Opposition bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

(The Leader of the Opposition stands and replies to the Minister for Education's introduction of the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

What a lot of RUBBISH!

How are we going to become the clever country that we all talk about if we do not even set our young people homework.

There is a lot of research, surveys and activities that are much better completed at home with family and friends than in a school classroom.

This gives the family a project to work on together. What a silly idea that homework does not give family time together it actually encourages it.

Member for Grevillea

The Premier

The Premier is the leader of the Government in the House of Assembly. The Government is formed by winning the most seats in the House of Assembly. They choose the Ministers, who are responsible for running the State of South Australia through the various government departments. The Premier is the third speaker in the debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Government)

(The Government bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Premier.

(The Premier stands and speaks to the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

Many of my constituents come to me and complain about the amount of time very young children are spending on homework instead of playing with their friends and spending time with their families.

We all know that it is important that young children have plenty of exercise and that is not going to happen while they are spending more time at home sitting down working on homework.

Children need free time to play, exercise and spend with their families – not sitting down at a table like they do in a classroom working on homework.

Member for Banksia

Shadow Minister for Education

Shadow Ministers are Members of the Opposition. They are responsible for shadowing or following Ministerial portfolios.
The Shadow Minister for Education is the fourth speaker in the debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Opposition)

(The Opposition bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Shadow Minister for Education.

(The Shadow Minister for Education stands and speaks to the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

Yes Mr Premier you always know what is right – or so you think you do!

What about skills and knowledge. Does our Premier think our children really have enough time during the very short school day to learn everything they need to know?

Homework is not always sitting at a table. A lot of the time it involves getting out there in the community and learning about your own community. It may well involve exercise.

Homework is a positive influence on young people who need to know that not everything can be done at a desk.

Member for Wattle

Government Backbencher

**Government Backbenchers are Members of the Government who won a seat at the last election but do not hold a Ministerial portfolio.
The Member for Wattle is the fifth speaker in the debate.**

(The Speaker bows to the Government)

(The Government bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Wattle.

(The Member for Wattle stands and speaks to the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

My constituents keep telling me how important it is that homework is abolished.

We need young people to have free time to explore their own interests and spend time with their family and friends.

Young people should be allowed to be young people and not just robots following teachers instructions 24 hours a day. Young people need time to think freely without constraints.

Member for Protea

Opposition Backbencher

Opposition Backbenchers are Members of the Opposition who won a seat at the last election but do not hold a Shadow Ministerial portfolio.
The Member for Protea is the sixth speaker in the debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Opposition)

(The Opposition bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Protea.

(The Member for Protea stands and speaks to the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

What rubbish comes out of the mouths of this Government.

Homework is very important in the development of young people.

Young people need to see that learning is an ongoing and life long commitment. You do not stop learning because you leave the classroom or because you leave school.

Learning is a part of life therefore young people need to do homework to get used to this idea.

Member for Sturt Desert Pea Government Backbencher

**Government Backbenchers are Members of the government who won a seat at the last election but who do not hold a Ministerial portfolio.
The Member for Sturt Desert Pea is the seventh speaker in the debate.**

(The Speaker bows to the Government)

(The Government bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Sturt Desert Pea.

(The Member for Sturt Desert Pea stands and speaks to the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

For once I actually agree with the Opposition. Learning is a lifelong activity and something we all do all of the time.

BUT not as homework. We learn naturally when a question occurs to us and we want to find out the answer. Not because some teacher has decided a bit extra on this will help but as a natural process.

Homework should be abolished so we can get on with more natural learning. I believe the only REAL way to learn.

I hope all my fellow Members of Parliament here today will support this Bill and support their democratically elected Government.

Member for Kangaroo Paw

Opposition Backbencher

Opposition Backbenchers are Members of the Opposition who won a seat at the last election but do not hold a Shadow Ministerial portfolio.
The Member for Kangaroo Paw is the eighth speaker in the debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Opposition)

(The Opposition bows back)

Speaker: I call on the Member for Kangaroo Paw.

(The Member for Kangaroo Paw stands and speaks to the Bill)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

How do we learn to research questions that occur to us?

How do we learn to find out information we want?

How do we answer questions in this lifelong learning?

We can do this because we learned the correct research techniques at school and in our homework.

A little homework each night helps young people understand the importance of learning.

A little homework helps young people develop so they can cope with the extra work at senior secondary school and University or further study after school.

A little homework helps young people develop good study habits for lifelong learning.

I urge all of my fellow Members of Parliament in this democratic House to vote for what they know is right and that is NOT to support this Bill.

Member for Correa

Government Whip

The Government Whip is a Political Party Manager in Parliament who is responsible for arranging the business of their House of Parliament. The Whip organises Members of his/her Party to take part in debates. The Whip counts the votes after a debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Government)

(The Government bows back)

(When the Speaker invites anyone to speak on the Bill The Whip can contribute to the debate with a personally scripted speech or a spontaneous speech)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

(The Speaker calls on the Whips to count the vote)

(The Government Whip leaves his/her seat and stands next to the Clerk. If the Government Whip wishes to vote no he/she tells the Opposition Whip to include his/her vote in their count. The Government Whip counts the people on the Government side)

(The Whip whispers the result to the Speaker)

Member for Eucalyptus

Opposition Whip

The Opposition Whip is a Political Party Manager in Parliament who is responsible for arranging the business of their House of Parliament. The Whip organises Members of his/her Party to take part in debates. The Whip counts the votes after a debate.

(The Speaker bows to the Opposition)

(The Opposition bows back)

(When the Speaker invites anyone to speak on the Bill The Whip can contribute to the debate with a personally scripted speech or a spontaneous speech)

Madam/Mr. Speaker,

(The Speaker calls on the Whips to count the vote)

(The Opposition Whip leaves his/her seat and stands next to the Clerk. If the Opposition Whip wishes to vote no he/she tells the Government Whip to include his/her vote in their count. The Opposition Whip counts the people on the Opposition side)

(The Whip whispers the result to the Speaker)