

SSI ONSITE MOCK COMMITTEE MEETING

VIP Lobbyist Instructions

*****Please Read This Document to the End*****

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Thank you for volunteering to serve as a lobbyist for our SSI Onsite Mock Committee Meetings! We look forward to a wonderful and educational experience for our students.

Details

Follow the instructions in the email you received to find your assigned position and download the legislation. The email also includes the time and location of the committee meetings. You can also find this information at <https://ssionline.org/vip-resources/>.

There will be a brief orientation for all VIP volunteers prior to the committee meetings. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Following the orientation, you will be introduced to the students, a photo will be taken, and the committee meetings will begin.

***Please arrive at least 5 minutes early** so that we can start on time. If you are running late or will be unexpectedly prevented from attending, please call Joseph Cecil at 989-388-1149.

Committee Overview

Committees are named after American presidents (Adams, Jefferson, Washington, Madison) rather than being named to indicate what type of bills are being considered, and instead of Republican and Democratic Caucuses, we have the Blue Caucus and the Green Caucus.

Each committee will be considering two bills and each bill will have two lobbyists: one speaking in support of the bill and one speaking in opposition to the bill. Students are assigned their position on each bill and spend 2-3 days role-playing as state representatives. Half of the student committee has been assigned to support the bill and the other half to oppose it. The students are not allowed to change their vote, nor are they allowed to amend the bill.

Student Representatives must use proper parliamentary procedure during the meeting, meaning that the Chair is running the meeting, and students must be recognized by the Chair before asking a question or making a comment.

Lobbyist Information

Please come prepared to give a **3-5 minute presentation** in support of or opposition to the bill to which you have been assigned. When you arrive at the orientation, you will need to fill out a committee hearing card and give it to the Committee Chair. Please include on this card: your name (or alias), the “organization” you are representing (feel free to be creative and fabricate a name), the bill you are addressing, and whether you support or oppose the bill according to your assignment.

As student representatives are assigned their positions there is no need to convince the committee members of your position. Rather, **your role is to provide quality arguments** for their use during the Mock House Session when the legislation will be voted on by all participating students. Please be aware that you may be assigned to take a position you don't agree with; however, you are only role-playing, and we ask that you do your best to be persuasive. Feel free to inform the students of your "real life" position at the conclusion of the committee meeting, but do not provide any additional arguments beyond those of your original testimony.

For your presentation, we simply ask that you be creative and give thought-provoking reasons for the students to consider the bill in question. Some arguments both for and against the bill can be found in the analysis after the bill. You may also have a sample testimony for this bill available on our website at <https://ssionline.org/vip-resources/>. This is provided for your convenience. You can feel free to use it or write your own testimony. If you need more information on the bill to craft a compelling argument, feel free to do additional research or contact us for additional assistance.

Please note: If you are bringing copies of your testimony or additional information, please bring at least 17 copies and submit a copy of any handout materials to the Chair before the committee.

After your presentation, please be prepared to take questions from the students and the committee chair. If your schedule permits it, please stay through the entire committee meeting in case further questions arise. **There will also be a brief reception with the students** immediately following the committee meeting. We invite you to stay if time permits.

Committee Agenda:

Opening Procedure and Roll Call: 3 minutes

First Bill: 35 minutes

5 Minute Break (*time permitting*)

Second Bill: 35 minutes

Adjourn: 2 minutes

Reception with Students: 15 minutes

If you have any questions, please call Aimee Chauvin at 517-321-6233x702.

For more information on the Onsite Program, go to our website at www.ssiionline.org/onsite/.

Note: If an emergency arises and you cannot fulfill your commitment on the day of the event, please call or text Joseph Cecil at 989-388-1149.