

# 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 Mock Legislature Committee Meetings.

**Plan on arriving at least 5 minutes early so that we can start on time. If you are running late or will be unable to attend last minute, please call Joseph Cecil at 989-388-1149.**

## Details

**Follow the instructions in the email you received to find your assigned position and download the bill you will be speaking on. The email also contains the time and place of the committee hearings. You can also find this information at <https://ssionline.org/vip-resources/>.**

## Lobbying

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

Each bill considered during the meeting will have a lobbyist speaking for the bill and one speaking against it. Half of the student legislators have been assigned to support the bill and the other half to oppose it. The students will not be allowed to change their vote, so rather than your role being to convince the “legislators” of your position, you are instead providing arguments for them to use during their Mock Session held either that night or the following morning. Please be aware that you may be asked 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.

Please come prepared to give a **3-5 minute presentation** in support of or opposition to the bill—refer to your email to determine which “side” you have been assigned to take on the issue. 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.

For your presentation, we simply ask that you be creative and give thought-provoking reasons for the students to consider regarding the bill in question. 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. **Please note: if you are bringing written copies of your testimony or any extra information on the issue, please bring at least 17 copies for the students and instructors. Please submit a copy of any handout materials to the Chair with your committee hearing card.**

After your presentation, please be prepared to take questions from the students. If you have time after giving your testimony and would like to stay in case further questions arise, it would be appreciated. **There will be a brief VIP reception with the students immediately following the committee meeting. We invite you to stay if time permits.**

If you need more information on the bill, feel free to either do your own research or to contact us for additional assistance. **If you have any questions, please call Aimee Chauvin at 517-321-6233.**

Thanks again, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

For more information on the Onsite Program, go to our website at [www.ssionline.org/onsite/](http://www.ssionline.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.*