

## Extension activity – amendment script

### Master script

*The Clerk stands up and rings the bell.*

**Clerk:** Honourable senators, please stand.

*The Usher of the Black Rod, carrying the Black Rod, leads the President into the room.*

**Usher:** Honourable senators, the President.

*The President sits.*

*The Usher sits down, keeping the Black Rod beside them.*

**President:** Members, please sit down. The Senate is now in session. I call Senator\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_(the first name of somebody who has an amendment) to introduce the amendment.

*The senator stands.*

**Senator:** Thank you President, (the member completes their prepared speech).

*The senator sits.*

**President:** Are there any other comments on this amendment? Stand if you wish to speak. I call  
Senator \_\_\_\_\_(the first name of somebody who is standing).

*The called senator stands and gives their speech.*

*The President repeats 'stand if you wish to speak' and continues to call upon senators until  
everyone has had a turn or time is up.*

**President:** Order! A vote on the amendment will now be taken. Those who support the  
amendment move to the right of the President's chair. Those who oppose the amendment  
move to the left of the President's chair. Whips, count the vote.

*The senators choose a side and sit down.*

*The Whips stand up and count the votes on their side of the room. They tell the count to the  
President.*

*The President stands.*

**President:** Order! Result of the division. The number of votes for the amendment is \_\_\_\_.  
The number of votes against the amendment is \_\_\_\_.

*If the vote is for the amendment:*

**President:** The amendment is agreed to.

*If the vote is against the amendment:*

**President:** The amendment is not agreed to.

**President:** Order! The Senate is now adjourned.


*The Clerk stands.*

**Clerk:** Honourable senators please stand.

*The Usher leads the President out of the room.*

# THE PRESIDENT

When you are led in by the Usher of the Black Rod, sit down and say:

 Senators, please sit down.

I call Senator \_\_\_\_\_ (use the name of the person who has an amendment)  
to introduce the amendment

After the Senator has introduced the amendment, say:


 Are there any other comments on this amendment?

Stand if you wish to speak.

I call Senator \_\_\_\_\_ (use first name)

If any more Senators wish to speak, repeat 'stand if you wish to speak'.


When all the Senators have finished speaking, say:

 Order! A vote on the amendment will now be taken.


Those who support the amendment move to the right of the President's chair.

Those who oppose the amendment move to the left of the President's chair.

Wait for everyone to choose a side then say:

 Whips, count the vote.

When the whips have counted the votes and told you the result, stand up and say:

 Order! Result of the division:

The number of votes FOR the amendment is \_\_\_\_\_

The number of votes AGAINST the amendment is \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is FOR the amendment say:

 The amendment is agreed to.

If the vote is AGAINST the amendment say:

 The amendment is not agreed to.

 Order! The Senate is now adjourned.

Follow the Usher out of the room.

# THE CLERK

To begin the session stand up, ring the bell and say:

 Honourable Senators, please stand.

When the President says 'the Senate is now adjourned', stand and say:

 Honourable Senators, please stand.

# USHER OF THE BLACK ROD

When the Clerk rings the bell, lead the President into the room, carrying the Black Rod in front of you. Say:



Honourable Senators, the President.

Sit down, keeping the Black Rod beside you.

When the Clerk says 'Honourable senators, please stand', pick up the Black Rod and lead the President out of the room.

# GOVERNMENT WHIP

When the President says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the senators on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself, your leader and the President.

Go and tell the President the results.

# OPPOSITION WHIP

When the President says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the senators on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself and your leader.

Go and tell the President the results.