



Presiding Officer

PO says: 'The motion for debate today is ...

All members wishing to speak in this debate raise your hands now'

Wait to see how many hands go up

PO says: 'I call to be followed by.....'

Repeat this step until all except one of those wishing to speak have spoken, or time is running out. Then introduce the last speaker.

PO says: 'I call who will be our last speaker'

Once the final speaker is finished:

PO says: 'That is the end of this debate'.

Now call the vote

PO says: 'The motion today is... .

Members please vote now'

Count the votes

'The result is ...

Yes:

No:

Abstain:

The PO should bang the gavel to show the debate is finished.



Teacher notes

Making it real

Pupils can make the debate more real:

- Have the Presiding Officer stand outside the room at the start of the debate – the clerk bangs the gavel as the PO enters the room. All the ‘MSPs’ stand up, then sit down when the PO sits.
- Stand up to speak
- Start their speech with ‘Thank you Presiding Officer’
- Add references to other speeches, such as ‘I agree with X’ or ‘I disagree with Y’s point that....’

NB The Presiding Officer must be fair and impartial and choose speakers from all around the room. Encourage the PO to use the gavel if it gets noisy.