

School Water Use and Safety Committee Witness Guidelines

The School Water Use and Safety Committee is considering issues of water use in schools in order to make recommendations to the state legislature. The committee will be considering the following issue:

- Should the committee suggest the legislature pass a law to require schools to sell bottled water?

To prepare for the hearing, begin by reading your group's position statement. Use Tox Town to gather facts and information to support your group's position. Focus on the most important facts or points of concern your group should make sure to bring up to the committee. Take 3 or 4 of the most important issues and prepare to emphasize these to the committee.

Other groups will disagree with you. Be prepared to think about what arguments the opposing groups might offer. Try to understand your group's position and if you can't find helpful information in Tox Town, try to come up with arguments that are consistent with your characters' beliefs.

A possible outline for your *initial* testimony could be:

I. Introduction

- Describe the group you represent
- State your main positions on the issue

II. Body

- Explain one of your main points of concern
- Be sure to include at least three relevant facts from Tox Town
- Describe the possible effects of any laws on your group

III. Conclusion

- State your main concerns again.
- Recommend the committee make suggestions that support your argument

Recognize that this is just your initial testimony. The committee is coming up with a structure for the hearing that will allow you to state your position, respond to other groups' positions, and rebut any points that they may make about your argument. You should prepare not only to make your own arguments but also to think about the arguments other groups will make and how they may disagree with you.