

Making a Speech

How do parliamentarians communicate their ideas to the media, to the public and to their colleagues? One way is by giving speeches and addressing crowds on a regular basis.

Try your hand at writing a speech! Remember, people prefer short, easy sentences and ideas. Use your imagination. Choose one of these scenarios:

- In the Senate Chamber: Write a speech to be given by a Senator in support of an issue that he or she has been investigating in committee.
- In the House of Commons: Write a speech to be given by an MP during Question Period, either questioning a member of Cabinet or responding to a question from another member of the House.
- At a public event or news conference: Write a speech to be given by the Prime Minister or a Cabinet Minister about a new piece of legislation.

Keep in mind that parliamentarians usually adapt their speech to appeal to their audience. Use the following outline to help you organize your ideas.

Before writing your speech, brainstorm some ideas. Your speech should include these points:

My audience is:

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Introduce yourself:

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What is your point?

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Why is your point valid?

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Why should your audience care about this issue?

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If applicable, what have members of the opposition done to oppose your proposal?

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Compliment and thank your audience, telling them what they can do (e.g. vote for a bill, give you support).

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Now that you have your ideas organized, write the good copy of your speech!

