

Mock Motion Debate

Strengthening youth participation in policy decision-making

For schools choosing this topic, the students who speak are required to prepare their own speeches. See Appendices I and II for the preparations required.

Hong Kong has seen many conflicts and complicated developments in recent years. To solve the problems in the long run, Hong Kong needs to increase young people's interest and participation in social affairs and politics. Therefore, this Council urges the Government to set up a governmental advisory structure with a majority of its members being young people aged 15 to 24 who are elected directly by all young people in Hong Kong, so as to engage young people directly in policy decision-making processes and enable young people to voice and influence on important government policies.

Mock Motion Debate

Preparation by schools

The main preparations before the activity are outlined below:

- Due to the time constraint of the activity, around six students will have a chance to speak and the suggested speaking time limit for each of them is about one minute;
- Students are assigned the following roles for whom speeches have to be prepared in advance¹: Public officer (one student) and Members (five students);
- Students who act as Members have to decide the corresponding constituencies (e.g. returned by the Election Committee, Social Welfare Functional Constituency and Geographical Constituency) to which they belong and write them down in the script; and
- Students shall make preparations including conducting research, discussion and writing speeches (students should be mindful that their speeches and stances have to be consistent with the roles they play).

Points of argument (for reference only)

Role		Points of argument
The Member moving the motion (One student) (He/she speaks twice respectively to move the motion and make the reply)	Move the motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As many policies concern young people, they should be allowed to exercise a more direct influence on the decision-making process so that the Government’s youth policies can be more targeted – Young people can represent themselves as a distinct social class and voice the problems they face – Nurture political talents
	Make the reply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The meetings of the Youth Development Commission (“YDC”) are not held in public, and there is inadequate interaction with young people – YDC lacks representativeness as the average age of the non-official members appointed by the Government is 35 and only three of them have been recruited through the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth
Members (Around four students) (Each of them speaks once)	For	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Broaden the political spectrum in Hong Kong – Strengthen young people’s sense of belonging in society and foster civic awareness – Being young does not mean lacking in-depth knowledge of social issues. As young people often use Internet media, they may have even faster and broader access to information than adults
	Against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Young people are at a stage of life where they are committed to their learning and future pathways. If they are only concerned about social and political issues, they may neglect the development of personal knowledge and professional capabilities – They should have a comprehensive understanding of society before participating in politics as they still do not have much social experience – They should not be entrusted with the power to make policy

¹ Except for the public officer and Members, the staff of the Legislative Council Secretariat will assign the remaining roles including the President of the Legislative Council (one student) and the Clerk to the Legislative Council (one student) in the activity session.

Role		Points of argument
		<p>decisions prematurely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Should balance the views of stakeholders from various sectors of society instead of having bias towards young people
<p>Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (One student) (He/she speaks once by way of reply)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – YDC was set up in 2018 to enhance policy coordination within the Government and enable a comprehensive and more effective examination of, and discussion on issues of concern to young people, with a view to encouraging their participation in politics as well as public policy discussion and debate – In order to collect the views of young people, the Government will review and change the composition and operation mode of YDC to create a more equal, interactive and open platform for young people to express their views on policy issues

Script

During the activity, students shall speak in the order as shown in the script (see **Appendix II**).

Mock Motion Debate

Strengthening youth participation in policy decision-making

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Members' motion: Strengthening youth participation in policy decision-making. <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member A who moves the motion)
MEMBER A 1. (_____) Constituency	: (<i>Stands up</i>) President, I move that the motion be passed ... 2. Speech (about one minute) ... Thank you, President. (<i>Sits down</i>)
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: I now propose the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by <u>Member A</u> be passed. Does any Member wish to speak? (<i>The student acting as Legislative Council Member B raises his/her hand</i>)
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member B)
MEMBER B 1. (_____) Constituency	: (<i>Stands up</i>) President, I support <u>Member A's</u> motion ... 2. Speech (about one minute) ... President, I so submit and support <u>Member A's</u> motion. Thank you. (<i>Sits down</i>) (<i>The student acting as Legislative Council Member C raises his/her hand</i>)

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member C)

MEMBER C	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I oppose <u>Member A</u> 's motion ...
1. _____ Constituency	2. Speech (about one minute)
	... President, I so submit and oppose <u>Member A</u> 's motion. Thank you. <i>(Sits down)</i>
	<i>(The student acting as Legislative Council Member D raises his/her hand)</i>

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member D)
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MEMBER D	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I support <u>Member A</u> 's motion ...
1. _____ Constituency	2. Speech (about one minute)
	... President, I so submit and support <u>Member A</u> 's motion. Thank you. <i>(Sits down)</i>
	<i>(The student acting as Legislative Council Member E raises his/her hand)</i>

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member E)
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MEMBER E	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I oppose <u>Member A</u> 's motion ...
1. _____ Constituency	2. Speech (about one minute)

Role	Script
	<p>... President, I so submit and oppose <u>Member A</u>'s motion. Thank you. <i>(Sits down)</i></p>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	<p>: Does any other Member wish to speak?</p> <p><i>(The rest of the students acting as Legislative Council Members may raise their hands to indicate their wish to speak. Students should wait until the President calls his/her name to stand up and speak)</i></p> <p>Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member)</p> <p><i>(One by one, the President calls upon the students who have raised their hands to indicate their wish to speak to stand up and speak)</i></p>
HON (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER)	<p>: <i>(Stands up)</i> (Student to express his/her views) <i>(Sits down)</i></p>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	<p>: <i>(All students who have raised their hands to indicate their wish to speak have finished delivering their speeches)</i></p> <p>Does any other Member wish to speak? (If no Member indicates a wish to speak) Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs.</p>
SECRETARY FOR HOME AND YOUTH AFFAIRS	<p>: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I am delighted that quite a number of Members have spoken enthusiastically and given valuable views on the motion ...</p>
<p>2. Speech (about one minute)</p>	
	<p>... Thank you, President. <i>(Sits down)</i></p>

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Member A</u> , you may now reply. This debate will come to a close after <u>Member A</u> has replied. <u>Member A</u> .

MEMBER A	: (<i>Stands up</i>) Thank you, President ...
1. () Constituency	2. Speech (about one minute) (Member moving the motion replies)
	... I call upon Members to support my motion. Thank you. (<i>Sits down</i>)

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: I now put the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by <u>Member A</u> be passed.
	Will those in favour please raise their hands? ¹ (<i>The Clerk counts the votes</i>)
	Those against please raise their hands. (<i>The Clerk counts the votes</i>)

(If <u>over half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion)		(If <u>half or less than half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion)	
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion passed.	PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion negated.

- End -

¹ To simplify the proceedings of the role-play, the passage of motions shall require a majority vote of the Members present. The voting procedure for real Council meetings is as follows:

- (a) the passage of motions or amendments introduced by the Government requires a majority vote of the Members present;
- (b) the passage of motions or amendments introduced by individual Members requires a majority vote of each of the two groups of Members present:
 - Members returned by the Election Committee; and
 - Members returned by functional constituencies and by geographical constituencies through direct elections.