

The Three Little Pigs Go to the Nevada State Assembly



A Reader's Theater about how a legislative committee makes decisions.

The Three Little Pigs Go to the Nevada State Assembly Grades 4 and 5

A Committee's Role in the Legislative Process and Mock Committee Hearing (1 hour)

In this reader's theater students will participate in a mock legislative committee hearing for the Nevada State Assembly with a fairy-tale twist! Students will learn about what a committee does and how it fits into the legislative process while participating in a group performance of "The Three Little Pigs Go to the Nevada State Assembly." There are attached resources that you can use to help your students understand the committee process that is portrayed in the reader's theater, or you can just use the script as part of a twisted fairy tale unit for ELA. If you would like to make this reader's theater more about participation and students writing their own opinions, there is a second version of this reader's theater with several prompts left blank for the students to fill in on their own.

This simulation will provide students an understanding of the committee process in the Nevada Legislature. Students will be given the opportunity to play the roles of Assembly members, lobbyist, and concerned citizens. Following the mock committee hearing, the committee members will decide what action they will take on the bill. Then, as a class, there should be a debriefing session on the role of the committee in the legislative process and how the committee hearing fits into the legislative process.

Preparation: Assign each student a role (chair, committee member, bill sponsor, lobbyists, and concerned citizen) and provide them with the script and a copy of the bill text. This script is meant to show students simply what the process of a committee hearing looks and sounds like.

Activity: Introduce the bill to the group and give them a basic background of what the bill is about. Remind the group that the point of the hearing is to gather citizen input and to learn from experts in the field in order to better understand the legislation they will be voting on.

Lexile Reading Level: 610-800

Standards addressed during this activity:

4th Grade Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 4 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.6

Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion); use formal English when appropriate to task and situation. (See grade 4 Language standards 1 [here](#) for specific expectations.)

SS.4.20. Evaluate how core civic dispositions and democratic principles have guided and/or continue to guide local and state government in Nevada.

SS.4.21. Identify and discuss examples of rules, laws, and authorities that keep people and property safe and secure in the state of Nevada.

5th Grade Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 5 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.3

Summarize the points a speaker makes and explain how each claim is supported by reasons and evidence.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.4

Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.6

Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to task and situation. (See grade 5 Language standards 1 and 3 [here](#) for specific expectations.)

SS.5.23.

Investigate how individuals exercise rights and responsibilities.

SS.5.24.

Investigate methods by which individuals can influence rules and laws in the classroom, school, government, and/or society.

The Three Little Pigs Go to the Nevada State Assembly

The three little pigs have had a difficult time lately with their houses being destroyed by the Big Bad Wolf. They have decided to put their ideas together and have come up with a **bill** to present to the legislators in the **Nevada State Assembly** that will not only help themselves but the community they live in as well. The bill has made its way to the **Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services** and now all the Little Pigs need to do is convince the **Committee** that their bill is a great idea. If the Committee thinks it is a good bill, they will send it on to the next step in becoming a law in the state of Nevada.

Roles:

Chair (This is a person, not a piece of furniture! See the glossary at the end for a definition.)

Committee members (7)

Bill Sponsor

Little Pig One

Little Pig Two

Little Pig Three

The Big Bad Wolf

Citizens in Testifying in Support (4-5)

Citizens in Testifying in Opposition (4-5)

Citizens in Testifying in Neutral (2-3)

Chair:

Welcome to today's meeting of the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. We have a big **hearing** today for Assembly Bill 123. I know that there are some strong opinions on this bill. I would like to remind everyone to please be respectful and allow everyone to share their thoughts without interrupting them. With that, we will open the bill hearing for Assembly Bill 123. Welcome, Bill Sponsor and Little Pigs One, Two, and Three. Please step up to the microphones. You may begin when you are ready.

Bill Sponsor:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. I will speak a little bit about Assembly Bill 123 and then let the Three Little Pigs talk. This bill is about making the homes of our Little Pig Community safer. Right now, many pigs in the community are only able to build their houses out of straw or sticks. This is a big safety issue because many of their houses have been destroyed by someone walking by huffing and puffing and then blowing their houses down! We are asking that any homes built in the Little Pig Community be required to be built out of bricks. We are asking that the bricks be given at no cost to any pig who has had their house blown down by a big, bad wolf. I will now let Little Pig One share their story.

Little Pig One:

Thank you, Bill Sponsor and Madam/Mr. Chair, for letting us come in and talk with you all today. I will begin by saying that I personally have had my house blown down by the Big Bad Wolf! I worked for months and months to build my house out of straw. Then, one day while sitting down to enjoy my breakfast in my brand-new home, I heard a knock at my door. I didn't know who it was, so I did not answer. They wouldn't go away and kept knocking and knocking on the door! Then, suddenly, I heard a great big huff, and then

a giant puff, and then faster than a blink, my house blew down around me! Please pass Assembly Bill 123 so all our Little Pig Community will be protected from this very same thing from happening to them.

Little Pig Two:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My story is like Little Pig One's. I worked hard for weeks to build my house. I only had sticks to build my home. When I had just finished putting the last stick in place, I noticed the Big Bad Wolf walking up the road. I knew that he had just blown down Little Pig One's house, so I ran inside hoping he wouldn't do the same to my stick house. Boy, was I wrong! Mr. Wolf came right up to my door and knocked so hard that the whole house shook! I didn't let him in, so he huffed and puffed and blew the whole house down around me. If my house had been made of bricks this would not have happened. Please pass Assembly Bill 123 so that no one else loses their home the way that I did.

Little Pig Three:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair, for allowing us to present here today about this important issue. My story is very different from what you heard from Little Pigs One and Two. My house is made of bricks and is still standing! Little Pigs One and Two came to stay at my house after the Big Bad Wolf blew their homes down. They came to warn me that he would try to do the same to me. Mr. Wolf did indeed come to my house one day and tried his huffing and puffing, but he ran out of breath because my house was not moving! This is why it is important to pass Assembly Bill 123. If all the Little Pig Community were required to build their homes out of bricks and given bricks to build their homes, then wolves would not be able to come and easily destroy their homes. This will keep the Little Pig Community safe.

Bill Sponsor:

Thank you. That was our bill presentation. We are ready to hear any questions from the Committee.

Chair:

Thank you for your wonderful presentation! I know that there are a lot of questions from the Committee members, and I will call on each of you one at a time. Committee Member One?

Committee Member One:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My question is to Little Pig One. Why did you make your house out of straw?

Little Pig One:

Well, I didn't know where to get the materials to build my house and I had a big field of straw in front of me. I thought that I could use that straw to build a nice house. Plus, I know several other little pigs that have made their homes out of straw. I thought it sounded like a good idea at the time.

Chair:

Thank you. We will go next to Committee Member Two.

Committee Member Two:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My question is to Little Pig Two. Why did you make your house out of sticks?

Little Pig Two:

One day, I went for a walk in the woods and noticed lots of sticks all over the forest floor. I wanted to clean them up and by the time I collected them all, I had a mountain of sticks! I decided, then, not to waste the sticks and that I could build a whole house out of what I had gathered in the woods that day for free.

Chair:

Now to Committee Member Three.

Committee Member Three:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My question is to Little Pig Three. Why did you make your house out of bricks?

Little Pig Three:

I work for a brick company, and they give us a few bricks at the end of each day. I worked there so long that I finally had enough bricks to build my whole house! I knew that the bricks would be strong enough to keep even the biggest, baddest wolf out!

Chair:

Now the question from Committee Member Four.

Committee Member Four:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My question is for Little Pigs One and Two. Why didn't you make your houses out of bricks before?

Little Pig One:

I used straw because I don't know how to build a house with bricks. Plus, bricks are very expensive! I then met Little Pig Three, who said he would help me build my new home out of strong bricks and help me find a way to pay for them.

Little Pig Two:

I used sticks because I had found enough of them in the woods near the Little Pig Community to build an entire house. They were free, and I thought they would work for a house.

Chair:

Committee Member Five?

Committee Member Five:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My question is for Little Pig Three. Where did you get the bricks for your home?

Little Pig Three:

Like I said, I work for a brick company, and they allowed me to take bricks home each day. The company I work for said that they would also help any little pig in the Little Pig Community with getting bricks to build stronger homes to keep them safe.

Chair:

Now for a question from Committee Member Six.

Committee Member Six:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My question is for any of the presenters. How will all the little pigs in the Little Pig Community build their homes once they get the bricks? I know that building with bricks can be difficult.

Little Pig Three:

We have gathered a group of builders that are willing to volunteer and help any little pig build a safer home with the bricks that the brick company gives them.

Chair:

We will now hear the question from Committee Member Seven.

Committee Member Seven:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. How do we know that all the little pigs in the Little Pig Community want to build their homes out of bricks?

Bill Sponsor:

We had a meeting in the Little Pig Community and asked them if they would like to build safer homes out of bricks. Every little pig at the meeting said yes and signed this letter asking you for help. That means that every little pig in the community, except for one little pig who was taking a nap and missed the meeting that day, agrees with this idea.

Chair:

Thank you for your presentation. We will now move on to hear **testimony** for Assembly Bill 123. I will now allow anyone who would like to **testify in support** of Assembly Bill 123 to share their opinions.

Citizen One:

Hi, my name is **(Citizen One)**, and I am here to support Assembly Bill 123. I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this bill and the Three Little Pigs for bringing the idea here. I live in a house made of sticks and am terrified that a big bad wolf will come along and blow it over. Please pass Assembly Bill 123 so that all of us in the Little Pig Community can have strong houses built of bricks.

Citizen Two:

Good afternoon. My name is **(Citizen Two)**, and I am here in support of Assembly Bill 123. I am one of the builders that have volunteered to help the Little Pig Community build their houses out of the bricks given

out with this bill. We would love to help the little pigs feel safe by building them strong brick houses. Please vote yes on Assembly Bill 123.

Citizen Three:

Hello, my name is **(Citizen Three)**, and I am here to talk about Assembly Bill 123 and how much good it will do for the Little Pig Community. We are always afraid when any wolves come near our houses because we are afraid of what they will do. This bill will let us all feel safe in our homes that will be made of strong, sturdy bricks when you pass this bill. Please support Assembly Bill 123.

Citizen Four:

Good afternoon. My name is **(Citizen Four)** and I came here today to show my support of Assembly Bill 123. I think that it is about time that someone looks out for the Little Pig Community! We should not have to be afraid of someone coming by and knocking over our homes that we have worked hard to build. This bill will also give jobs to a lot of builders in the area when they help us to build our new homes. Please say yes to Assembly Bill 123.

Chair:

Thank you all for sharing. I will now allow anyone who would like to **oppose** Assembly Bill 123 to speak.

The Big Bad Wolf:

Thank you, my name is Walter Wesley Wolf, but some in the Little Pig Community know me as "The Big Bad Wolf." I am here in **opposition** to Assembly Bill 123. I don't like that the community has made me into a bad guy! I am allergic to straw, so when I was out for a walk and passed Little Pig One's house, my allergies went crazy! I tried to knock on his door to warn him, but I let out a huge sneeze and the whole house went down. Another day when I was out for a walk, I came upon Little Pig Two's house. I knew that Little Pig One was visiting him and I wanted to apologize for sneezing down his house. I knocked on the door politely, but to my shock the whole house shook and was going to come down too! I tried to warn them, but no words came out, which may have sounded to the pigs like huffing and puffing. The third little pig was smart and built his house out of bricks. I was out for a jog and saw that Little Pigs One and Two were there, so I ran up to the door to apologize to both little pigs now, but I was so out of breath that they thought I was huffing and puffing again! The Little Pig Community is perfectly safe from me in their houses of straw and sticks, so we do not need to pass Assembly Bill 123.

Citizen Five:

My name is **(Citizen Five)**, and I am here today to oppose Assembly Bill 123. I believe that giving out free bricks to all in the Little Pig Community will cause a shortage of bricks for the rest of us. They are able to build perfectly good houses out of straws and sticks and do not need to take bricks away from the rest of us. Thank you.

Citizen Six:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair. My name is **(Citizen Six)**, and I am also here to oppose Assembly Bill 123. I think that the Little Pig Community just needs to do a better job of building their homes. They are making the entire wolf community sound like bad guys over a simple misunderstanding! I know many little pigs and even wolves that have houses made of straw or sticks and have never had an issue with them falling

over. I am asking this Committee to please vote against Assembly Bill 123 because we don't want everyone to be mad at wolves over a building issue that isn't our fault.

Citizen Seven:

Thank you. My name is (**Citizen Seven**), and I am here to oppose Assembly Bill 123. I am worried that all the builders will be working on the Little Pig Community and won't have time to work on building any other buildings that we need. Please vote no on Assembly Bill 123.

Chair:

Thank you all for your **testimony**. I will now allow anyone who would like to speak in **neutral** for Assembly Bill 123.

Citizen Eight:

Hi, my name is (**Citizen Eight**), and I am here to speak in neutral to Assembly Bill 123. I think that both sides have good points. I think that the little pigs should feel safe in their homes no matter what and that the wolves shouldn't be called the bad guys. I think that everyone just wants a safe place to live. Thank you.

Citizen Nine:

Good afternoon. My name is (**Citizen Nine**), and I am also here to give a testimony in neutral to Assembly Bill 123. I agree with (**Citizen Eight**), that everyone here just wants a home that is safe to live in. I think that both sides have good ideas, and maybe they can get together and work on something that will work for both sides.

Chair:

Thank you to all our citizens who came to talk about Assembly Bill 123. I will now invite the Bill Sponsor back to the microphone to share any last thoughts.

Bill Sponsor:

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair, for hearing this important bill today. I know that there were a lot of different ideas about this bill, but our goal is to really make the Little Pig Community a safer place by giving every little pig bricks to make stronger houses. Thank you.

Chair:

Thank you all for being here today. Committee members, I know that this is unusual, but Mr. Speaker has allowed us to do a **work session** for this bill today. For all the citizens in the audience, this means that we will decide how to vote on this bill right now. I will take a **motion** from the Committee to "Do Pass" Assembly Bill 123.

Committee Member One:

I move to Do Pass Assembly Bill 123.

Committee Member Five:

I second the motion.

(Students who are playing the committee members will now get to choose if they think the bill should pass or not.)

Chair:

I will now call for a vote. Committee members that would like to vote "yes" to pass Assembly Bill 123, please raise your hands. **(The Chair will count the votes.)** Committee members that would like to vote "no" for Assembly Bill 123, please raise your hands. **(The Chair will count the votes.) (The chair will then announce if the bill will move on. If there were more yes votes from the committee, the Chair will say "The motion carries." If there were more no votes, the Chair will say "The motion has failed.")** Thank you all for coming to share your stories today. I will now close the bill hearing for Assembly Bill 123.

We were supposed to hear another bill from Assemblywoman Rapunzel today about requiring safety ladders to be installed in all towers in the kingdom, but unfortunately, we have run out of time for this meeting. We will come back and hear that bill in our meeting next Tuesday. Again, thank you all for coming to our meeting of the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. This meeting is now **adjourned (this means "the end!")**

Glossary

Adjourn: To adjourn is to conclude, or finish, a day's session or committee meeting.

Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services: This committee in the Nevada Assembly is in charge of hearing bills about public welfare, health care, and safety.

Bill: a draft of a proposed law or a change in a current law.

Bill Sponsor: The legislator or committee who introduces a bill.

Body: All Assembly members or Senate members meeting as a group are referred to as the body. This is the only place where a final decision can be made on a bill.

Chair: The leader of the committee who is in charge of making everything fair and respectful for both parties. They make sure that everyone's voice is heard, just like your teacher!

Committee: A group of people who are chosen from a larger group to investigate, report on, or take action on a matter. There are ten committees in the Nevada State Assembly that are made of Assembly members who have been chosen to help decide what bills to pass out of those committees.

Hearing: A hearing is a meeting of a legislative committee during which witnesses provide testimony on bills under consideration by the committee. Anyone may attend and/or testify at a hearing.

Legislator: A person who makes laws and is a member of a legislative body. Members of the Nevada State Assembly are legislators. An elected member of a legislature is an Assemblyman, Assemblywoman, or Senator.

Legislature: A body (group) of people that have the power to make laws for a state or country.

Motion: A formal request by a member of the committee or legislative body to do something.

Neutral: To not be in support or opposition. If someone is speaking in neutral to a bill, they are offering information they think may be helpful to the committee.

Nevada State Assembly: The Nevada State Assembly, or Assembly, is one of two chambers in the Nevada Legislature. The other chamber in the Nevada Legislature is the Senate. The Assembly and Senate are in charge of creating laws in the state of Nevada. Members of the Assembly are elected every two years.

Oppose/opposition: To argue or vote against. If someone is in opposition to a bill, they would like the bill to fail and not become a law.

Support: To argue or vote for. If someone is in support of a bill, they want the bill to pass and become a law.

Testify: To make a statement based on personal knowledge or belief.

Testimony: A spoken or written statement that a person provides in support, opposition, or neutrality to a bill.

Work Session: The point in a committee meeting when no more testimony is heard. This is where the committee makes a decision on what to recommend to the body.

Follow-up Questions

What problem did the Three Little Pigs identify in their community?

What was the solution that the Bill Sponsor and the Three Little Pigs came up with to solve the problem?

What was the role of the Chair during the committee hearing?

What was the role of the Bill Sponsor during the committee hearing?

What role did the citizens play during the committee hearing?

Do you **support** or **oppose** Assembly Bill 123 that was presented by the Three Little Pigs? Why?