



Handling a Motion

What is a Motion?

A motion is a proposal that the group take a particular stand or action on something.

Handling a motion usually involves the following steps:

- *Step 1:* An assembly member must secure the floor to speak.
- *Step 2:* The assembly member introduces the motion.
- *Step 3:* Another assembly seconds the motion (to indicate support).
- *Step 4:* The assembly debates the motion.
- *Step 5:* The assembly votes on the motion.

Act it out!

For this next activity, practice handling a motion by acting out the following scenario. Imagine that the people playing this scenario are all members of the local school board and someone moves to increase funding for the science department by 10% and decrease funding for athletics by 6%.

You will need someone to play each of the following roles:

- Chairperson
- Mr(s) Williams
- Mr(s) Garcia
- Mr(s) Johnson

Dialogue:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Step 1: A member secures the floor to speak. | MR(S) WILLIAMS: | Mister/Madam Chairman. |
| | CHAIRPERSON: | Mr(s) Williams. |
| Step 2: The member introduces the motion. | MR(S) WILLIAMS: | I move to increase funding for the science department by 10% and decrease funding for athletics by 6%. |
| Step 3: Another member seconds the motion. | MR(S) GARCIA: | Second. |
| Step 4: The Assembly debates the motion. | CHAIRPERSON: | It has been moved and seconded to increase funding for the science department by 10% and decrease funding for athletics by 6%. Is there any discussion? |

Skill 36: Hosting Meetings And Open Forums

Activity B: Parliamentary Procedure

Worksheet

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| | MR(S) JOHNSON: | Mister/Madam Chairman. |
| | CHAIRPERSON: | Mr(s) Johnson. |
| | MR(S) JOHNSON: | I'm not sure we should decrease funding for athletics. Exercise is good for kids' mental and physical health. |
| | MR(S) WILLIAMS: | Mister/Madam Chairman. |
| | CHAIRPERSON: | Mr(s) Williams. |
| | MR(S) WILLIAMS: | Enrollment in the athletics programs has dropped by 20% and the facilities in the science department need to be updated. |
| | MR(S) GARCIA: | Mister/Madam Chairman. |
| | CHAIRPERSON: | Mr(s) Garcia. |
| | MR(S) GARCIA: | The athletic department no longer needs as much money to operate, and the additional funding to the science department will make it more competitive. |
| | CHAIRPERSON: | Is there any further discussion? |
| <i>After a brief silence, it becomes clear that no further discussion is necessary.</i> | | |
| Step 5: The assembly votes upon the motion. | CHAIRPERSON: | There being no further discussion, we will move to a vote. The question is on the adoption of the motion to increase funding for the science department by 10% and decrease funding for athletics by 6%. All those in favor? |
| | ALL IN FAVOR: | Aye |
| | CHAIRPERSON: | All opposed? |
| | ALL OPPOSED: | No |
| | CHAIRPERSON: | (to indicate approval of the motion the chair says) The Ayes have it and the motion carries. OR: (to indicate a rejection of the motion the chair says) The no's have it and the motion is lost. |