**Testimony is your argument in support or opposition to a proposed bill, like the ones to mandate healthier school lunches or allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote. Like a school paper, your testimony should contain a brief opening statement followed by evidence to support your stance. Please keep in mind that you will only have three minutes to present your testimony. Below are two sample testimonies – one in support of and one in opposition to - two bills that might cause a stir if they were ever filed. These examples are meant to model how you will want to structure your testimony.**

*Example 1: The wild turkey population in Massachusetts has drastically increased, causing dozens of accidents on roadways every day. A legislator who has heard from constituents about the problem has filed a bill that will create designated walkways for wild turkeys to cross the road.*

**Example testimony in support of a bill**:

Good morning committee chairs and committee members. Thank you for having me here today to offer my testimony in support of the Turkey Crossing the Road Bill.

We have seen an increase in accidents between turkeys and vehicles across the state and it doesn’t help that we don’t always know why these turkeys are on the move. It has gotten to the point where I hear about multiple collisions per day; we urgently need to address this crisis. I believe this legislation is crucial for public safety as it will protect the wellbeing of all residents, whether they are biped or feathered.

This legislation is necessary because these collisions can be traumatizing for drivers, waste public safety resources, and cause insurance rates to skyrocket. We have seen in neighboring states that designated poultry crosswalks have reduced the incidents of collisions. In neighboring states these walkways have decreased accidents by over 25% since the law was enacted one year ago. These walkways work.

I am aware that opponents argue that these crosswalks will cause traffic. Collisions between cars and turkeys can tie up roadways for hours. By installing walkways, we are improving traffic conditions, not creating more traffic.

I appreciate the consideration of the committee and ask that you give this bill a favorable recommendation. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to speak today.

*Example 2: A bill is filed that will make cranberry the official ice cream flavor of Massachusetts.*

**Example testimony in opposition to a bill**:

Good morning committee chairs and committee members. Thank you for having me here today to offer my opposition to the Cranberry Ice Cream Bill.

I understand that cranberries are an important crop to Massachusetts and that cranberry growers are a vital part of the Massachusetts economy. However, I believe chocolate chip cookie dough deserves to be the official ice cream of the Commonwealth.

Chocolate chip cookie dough is well-loved throughout Massachusetts and should be immortalized and celebrated by being the official state ice cream.

Supporters of this bill will argue that the state’s official cookie is the chocolate chip cookie and that we should give the spotlight to cranberries. My first response to that argument is that Massachusetts didn’t invent the cranberry. My second is that the chocolate chip cookie is beloved all over the world while cranberries are not.

I appreciate the consideration of the committee and ask that you give this bill an unfavorable recommendation. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to speak today.