Student Government Day

Testimony Guide and Tips

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Greeting:** Kick off your testimony with a quick greeting or by thanking the Chairs and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify.

*“Good morning Chair [Name]/Chair [Name] and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding…”*

**Introduction:** Briefly introduce yourself, where you’re from, and your connection to the bill.

*“My name is John Doe, and I am a 17-year-old student at John Adams High School in Quincy. The legislation before the committee today would make important changes to health standards for food options served at schools across Massachusetts.”*

**Testimony:** Tell the Committee if you support or oppose the bill and why. Committees generally limit testimony to 3 minutes per person.

Tips for writing your own testimony:

* Refer to specific parts of the legislation and the potential effects.
* Avoid doing an in-depth summary of the issue.
* Use this time to emphasize the impact of the bill and why it is important to you personally.
* Discussion of the policy can be important, but oftentimes a genuine emotional appeal is more impactful.
* Keep your testimony short and to the point- focus on your best and most significant arguments for or against the bill (Around 300 words is a good guideline to stay under the time limit).
* Take a deep breath and relax! You don’t have to give a perfect speech in order to leave an impression.