



The Parliament Prize Student guide

Researching your topic

You have 90-seconds to speak to parliament. You've picked a topic that you're passionate about, something you find interesting and think everyone should know about. Now what?



Doing some research on a topic or issue can help you work out what to say, what to focus on, what might have been tried in the past and give you some ideas about what could be done in the future. Research can also add some credibility to what you are saying because it can help you feel confident and knowledgeable about your topic.

You may not include everything you discover or know in your Member's Statement, but it can help you select what you want to focus on.

What would you say to parliament if you were an MP?

Questions and tips

Below are some questions and tips to help you research your topic or issue:

- Who wrote the information you are reading? What makes them an expert?
- What are the key points they are making?
- Where is it published?
 - Find reputable sources for your information, such as newspapers, government websites, and non-governmental organisations
- When was the article or website written? Make sure it is the most up-to-date information.
- How many other sources say the same thing?
 - Looking for multiple sources that have the same or similar information is useful. But make sure that they are reliable sources, otherwise you could be confirming the wrong or inaccurate information (called confirmation bias)

You won't be able to include everything that you learn into your member statement, so think about:

- What evidence or support do you want to include? Will you include statistics and/or personal stories from your own or others' experiences?
- What was the most interesting thing you found out?
- Why did you choose this topic or why is it important to you?