

Student book questions

17A Rich task: A classroom constitution

Pages 436–437

Skill drill: Creating a constitution

An organisation is any group of people who work together with a common goal. This can include businesses, religious groups, schools or even classes. An organisation's constitution is written by the members of the organisation and is developed to reflect the beliefs and principles of the majority. In this way, it helps the organisation to function to benefit its members.

Step 1 Write a preamble. A preamble is usually a brief paragraph that states the overall purpose of the constitution.

Step 2 Write the name of the organisation.

Step 3 Write the purpose of the organisation.

Step 4 State who will be considered a member of the organisation.

Step 5 Provide the rules and responsibilities that relate to the people leading the organisation.

Step 6 Provide the rules and responsibilities for all members of the organisation.

Step 7 Outline what action can be taken if members do not follow the rules.

Step 8 Explain how amendments can be made to the constitution.

Step 9 Explain how and when a referendum can be called.

Apply the skill

- 1 Develop a classroom constitution: Developing a classroom constitution will require you to work with your class members and teacher. The constitution you come up with must reflect the rights and responsibilities of all students to create the best possible learning environment for all. Remember that, by law, the teacher has certain rights and responsibilities that are not negotiable. Use the steps of the skill drill to develop your ideas for your classroom constitution. Share your ideas with the rest of the class and then vote on what should be included in the constitution.
- 2 How do you feel about the classroom constitution? Were there any things you feel should or should not have been included?



- 3 What kind of situation do you think would benefit from a classroom referendum?

Extend your understanding

- 1 Visit the Parliament of Australia website and go to 'About Parliament', 'Senate', 'Role of the Senate' and then 'The Australian Constitution' (www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Senate/Powers_practice_n_procedures/Constitution) to see the Australian constitution in full.
- 2 What differences can you see between your classroom constitution and the Australian constitution?

- 3 What similarities can you see between your classroom constitution and the Australian constitution?
