

THE PROPOSAL

One idea must land: every witness tells the truth — and chooses which truth to tell. A fair judge listens for what is said, and for what isn't.

WE ARE LEARNING

To read an official proposal critically, argue a stakeholder's position that isn't our own, and judge testimony through the criteria we built — the final rehearsal before the Verdict.

CURRICULUM · IN PLAY

Both Y7 liveability descriptors + HASS skills: Analysing · Evaluating · Communicating and reflecting — Revised WA Curriculum (SCSA, implementation 2026).

SPARK THE BRIEFING LANDS

- **Show:** the Kambaria terrain — pit, town, river, conservation area, all on one map. **Say:** “The company Joan built in her ute is now listed — and it wants to dig here. In one week, this class rules on it.”
- **Hand out the briefing.** Read it aloud while students do their three marks. Harvest quickly: which number got circled most? Boxed most? The 400 m and the 15 years usually fight for the box.
- **Gut capture:** first-read lean recorded, checked against the Lesson 3 gut-lock. The tracking has begun — tell them so.

CORE WITNESS PREP

- **Deal the six witness cards, one per pair** (double up cards in big classes — two versions of the same witness is its own lesson). Pairs plan the 60 seconds: opening line, strongest fact in-voice, and the fire-back they fear.
- **The secrets rule, said plainly:** “your secret is never spoken — but it should leak into HOW you speak. The judges will try to guess it at the end.” This single rule turns acting into thinking.

WORKSHOP THE HEARING

- **Order matters:** Project Director first (sets the case), then store owner, resident, student, scientist — and the **Shire President LAST**; their torn testimony lands hardest after everything else.
- **Format per witness:** 60-second statement, then TWO fire-back questions from the judges — push them to use their Lesson 3 test questions; a question that starts “How much...” or “Who checks...” beats “don't you think...” every time.
- **While judging:** everyone not testifying fills the ledger — witness, criterion leaned on, fact used, fire-back. The ledger IS the listening.
- **The secrets round to close:** judges guess one witness's unspoken worry. Reveal only the ones they guess — unguessed secrets stay sealed. (They'll beg. Hold the line. It teaches that hearings never show you everything.)

LAND IT THE ANALYSIS + THE TRACKER

- **Airtime check** (most-discussed criterion vs the ignored one — usually Governance goes quiet; that silence is gold for the Verdict), the moved-or-held tracker, and the homework thought that defines an open mind: **what evidence would change my mind?**



■ WHAT THE BRIEFING IS ENGINEERED TO DO

Every fact has a shadow: 240 jobs carry a 15-year end date (the Year 12 student's secret lives there); the clinic and school ride on royalties from a pit 2.1 km from town; the water promise is monitoring, not mapping — the scientist's whole case. The company line — “we will leave Kambaria better than we found it” — is deliberately untestable as written; the sharpest students will underline it and demand to know what “better” means and who measures it. When one does, stop the room and say so.

■ THE HEARING ROOM, SET UP IN 60 SECONDS

One witness chair, facing the room. Judges in a loose arc — not rows; hearings aren't assemblies. The terrain image stays projected for the whole hearing, and witnesses may point at it: “that's MY street” changes a testimony. You sit to the side as the presiding officer: you call witnesses, keep time, and take no side.

■ IF A WITNESS FREEZES

Feed their opening line back to them (“you were about to tell us about the creek...”), or let their partner tag in — pairs prepared together for exactly this. And say it before anyone speaks: 60 seconds means UP TO 60. A strong 25-second statement beats a rambling minute, every time.

■ PROBING QUESTIONS WHILE YOU CIRCULATE

- “Your witness wants X — what would they be willing to trade to get it?”
- “That's your opinion talking — what would your CARD say?” (The discipline of the lesson.)
- “Which witness has the most to lose? Is it who you expected?”
- “The scientist and the director both used the same water number. How?” (Same fact, different frames — the heart of it.)

■ DIFFERENTIATION

Support: witness statements can be read from the plan lines — speaking notes are professional, not cheating; pair a confident speaker with a strong writer. **Extend:** the seventh witness — write the card the hearing was missing (a Traditional Owner? a downstream farmer? a worker from the company's LAST mine?) including their “won't say aloud” line, handled with respect.

■ RUNNING SHORT — THE CUT LINE

Run four witnesses: Director, Resident, Student, Scientist — keep the Shire President's card and read it aloud yourself as the closer. Protect the three marks, the secrets rule, and the exit tracker.

■ MISCONCEPTIONS TO WATCH

“The loudest witness wins” (the ledger judges criteria, not volume) · “having an interest = lying” (every witness told the truth — selectively; that's the lesson) · “the scientist is the neutral one” (even she chooses what to emphasise — her secret says so).

