



February 6, 2021

This role play template is practice for the Olympia Day meetings during the 2021 session

Student Roles

Facilitator

- initiates introduction and agenda; typically, the role of WA-SEN, fields WA-SEN initiative questions and opens and closes on Coalition messaging and priorities

Co-Facilitator

- keeps meeting on agenda points; typically, the regional coordinator covering the district or constituent of that district
- ensures post meeting evaluations are completed by each student participant

Note-taker

- takes down key points from meeting
- notes legislative commitments throughout the 15-minute meeting
- keeps note of questions asked

Presenters

- introduce Washington College Grant
- provides facts and evidence

Student Testimonials

- Gives personal story on the impact of the Washington College Grant (Formerly State Need Grant)

Script

Student Facilitator: Thanks for holding this meeting

- Hello Representative Sheraton. My name is _____
- First, I want to thank you for meeting with me today. This is the first time I have attended something like this and did not know what to expect but it is great that you are giving folks in your district a chance to speak to you to share more about what important to us as constituents.

Legislator: Representative Sheraton

- *Volunteer:* Say something here in response to a constituent thank you



Student Facilitator:

- This advocacy was organized by Washington Student Engagement Networks (WA-SEN for short).
- As you may know, we are the student arm of the College Promise Coalition administered by Independent Colleges of Washington with funding from the Gates Foundation.
- You may be familiar with the College Promise Coalition but to summarize: *(if leg. is familiar, skip this or shorten and move on)* the Coalition brings together leaders and advocates from education, business, labor, and community-based organizations. This partnership advocates for post-secondary opportunity and access for all Washington students, working with policymakers to adopt and fund policies that increase higher education attainment.
- WA-SEN has students that cover all corners of the state, across the three sectors -- the 34 community and technical colleges, the 6 public baccalaureate institutions, and the 10 private not-for-profit colleges.
- I'd like to introduce you to the team now. As I call them by name, they will share what college they attend and their major. (Suggest go alpha)
- I will turn to _____ (**co-facilitator**) now as they will keep us to our agenda and share the structure of the rest of our time together

Co-facilitator: Introduce yourself and your college or university

- I am a student at (**name college or university**) majoring in _____ and on campus (while virtual or hybrid now) I am involved in _____ and I thought it was time to get involved in the legislative process
- Today I will help us stay on point and also take any comments or outcomes shared during this meeting back to the campus reps in my region which includes the _____ district, and students on the _____ campus for instance.
- My teammate _____ will be taking notes, thank you _____.
- Now I am going to turn it over to _____ (**student presenter 1**) and _____ (**student presenter 2**). _____ (**student presenter 1**) first...

Student Presenter 1:

- Great. The reason we reached out to meet with you Representative Sheraton was to thank you for supporting/talk about the work that brought us the Washington College Grant. With all the pressures that came with multiple pandemics this year; the health pandemic with COVID, this nation's reckoning with its history of racial injustice, and the economic impact of both, we hope you will continue to protect student aid, so that those who need it can count on it to help get them to and through college.
- We are also aware that there are many students, like myself a constituents of the (**insert district #**), who now qualify and are receiving the Washington College Grant



but are worried about the pandemic and the impact it may have on budgets. This newly won college guarantee for families living on low incomes is still very important!

- I am going to ask _____ (**student presenter 2**) attending _____ (**college or university**) to share the final points:

Student Presenter 2:

- Thank you, _____ (**student presenter 1**). We believe the state should help make college within reach for low-income households whether that be a 2-year public, or a 4-year public or private not-for-profit college.
- We understand that the state budget is tight and other demands can make it hard to choose what to support.
- But we believe protecting student aid is a very high priority for students across the state. For the wellbeing and recovery of the state, we appreciate your support!
- Thank you for listening. I'd like to now pass it to _____ (**student testimonial**), attending _____ (**college or university**) to close us out.

Student: Tell a bit of your story from the story worksheet you just worked on.

Examples:

- To pay for my college I receive scholarships and state financial aid and my parents help; or I would not be able to go to college if it were not for my scholarships;
- I am the first in my family to go to college, my mom and or dad insisted that I go to college and they are right because I know I will be thankful as my life goes on;
- I absolutely love what I am taking in school and I love the university I attend, it is the right fit for me and what I want to accomplish;
- I can't imagine not getting a college degree because what it gives you for the rest of your life;
- At times going to school is hard – I see some students really struggling especially over financial issues so state aid is really important.

Express support for the Washington College Grant (get to the purpose of the meeting)

Examples:

- The reason I came here is to say thank you for supporting the Washington College Grant. I hope you will protect student aid, so that those who need it can count on it to help pay for college.
- I also am aware that there are a number of students who now qualify and are receiving the Washington College Grant but are worried about the pandemic and the impact it may have on budgets and this newly won college guarantee for low-income families is still very important.
- I believe the state should help make college accessible no matter what school a student chooses to attend.
- I appreciate that the state budget is tight and other demands can make it hard to



choose what to support.

- But I believe protecting student aid is a very high priority for the students in your constituency and for the wellbeing and recovery of the state.
- Thanks again for holding this meeting and for listening.

Student Facilitator or Co-Facilitator:

As we close our time with you, we wanted to reinforce the College Promise Coalition priorities for the upcoming session, we will also send this in an email follow up:

1. Protecting the progress made; and what the legislature helped make possible with the Washington College Grant
2. Increasing equity in Washington: *Communities of color that are low-income have been hit the hardest by COVID-19. This spans across all 3 sectors and the 50 campuses that make up WA-SEN*
3. And we are seeing increases in students need of academic advising, food and housing supports, behavioral health care, and tutoring as they work to get through this time—and to stay in school.

Student Facilitator or Co-Facilitator:

- Thank you, (**name Co- Facilitator**). Rep. Sheraton, did you have any questions or comments for us? And anything we're unable to answer today for you, I can most certainly find the answer and circle back with your office.

Note-taker:

- *Let the representative comment; take good notes.*

Legislator: Representative Sheraton

- Share your response and commitment as a legislator for higher education attainment!

Student Facilitator:

Thank you again. Rep. Sheraton would you be willing to take a picture with us?

End by thanking each other for meeting and say goodbye.