

Creating Questions for an Expert Witness

When politicians or business people want to find out information they seek to ask questions of people who are seen to be experts. Either they have studied the subject or they work within it. These people are then invited to be interviewed, in the House of Commons this would be done by Select Committees.

The children will be in small groups. Each child should think of at least two questions to ask the expert. They should share these within the group, and the group decides on which three questions it would like to ask. The questions are ranked the best to the third.

After each group has three questions then the facilitator will go around the groups to get a child from each to stand up and ask their question. This is a practice to ensure the children are loud and clear enough, and also if there is a repeat question then the group has to read out their second or third option. It may be good to name the groups with a letter, A,B,C... as they will be moving rooms to the chamber to interview the expert.

After the practice, **if there is time** children could think about any important questions that are missing.

You need a chairperson to take hands during the interview and ensure all the groups have asked their questions, and that the guest does not talk for too long.

The aim of the session is for the children to create and decide on questions that are good for research.

They are acting as researchers, or journalists and the answers will be filmed for other children and people to learn from.

The expert for today is Gregory Cohn, the Director of Tower Hamlets Co-operative Development Agency.

Time	In Committee Room 1	In Debating chamber.
11:40am	Gregory Cohn is introduced to conference.	
11:45am	Fairtrade Break	
12:00	Creating questions for Gregory Groups, each child writes one or two questions. Share them with the group. Group decide on best three	Teachers in chamber with Michael and Gregory for briefing and training.
12: 15	Groups read out their questions to review and practice.	
12: 20		Interview Gregory in the chamber.
12:45	Lunch	