

DeMolay 101

Getting YOU Through Your First Meeting

Chapter 1: Opening the Chapter

(get it? “Chapter”?)

Step 1: The Ritual

- ▶ The Ritual is your guide to opening/closing the Chapter, plus our Ceremonies!
- ▶ It contains directions for several roles or “offices”, usually involving repeating a written part.
- ▶ Many DeMolays learn to recite these parts from memory, but don’t be discouraged if you can’t do this at first!

Step 2: Moving Around the Chapter Room

- ▶ “Floor work” is the act of moving around the Chapter room along special lines, called “marching lines”.
- ▶ The Ritual contains specific instructions of where an officer moves while performing their Ritual part.
- ▶ Several diagrams at the back of the Ritual help to make sense of these instructions.

Step 3: The Signs (Initiatory)

- ▶ Each Degree, or level, of DeMolay has certain signs. The Initiatory Degree, or first level, has two:
 - ▶ The Step, Sign, and Token
 - ▶ The Grip (Initiatory)

Step 4: Prayer

- ▶ DeMolays have a special way to pray during our ceremonies.
- ▶ Kneel so your left knee touches the ground. Move your left hand into a “c” and place it on your right knee. Finally, rest your right arm on your knee and shield your eyes with your right hand.
- ▶ “Dance Dance Rejection”

Step 5: The Signs (DeMolay)

- ▶ The DeMolay Degree, the second and final level of DeMolay, has three signs:
 - ▶ The Sign
 - ▶ The Grip
 - ▶ The Password

Chapter 2: The Agenda

You get an agenda! And YOU get an agenda!

Part 1: A Glance at the Agenda

- ▶ Roll Call & Introductions
- ▶ Degree Work
- ▶ Previous Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report
- ▶ Bills, Communications
- ▶ Old Business (reports)
- ▶ Unfinished Business
- ▶ New Business
- ▶ Remarks

Part 2: Reporting on an Event

- ▶ The Master Councilor may ask you to report on an event you've been to. If you choose to report, here are some things you can mention:
- ▶ When was the event? Where?
- ▶ Was it fun? Be honest!
- ▶ Was the attendance good? Were there a lot of people?
- ▶ What did you do there?
- ▶ Was there food? Entertainment? Anything special that you remember from the event?

Part 3: Voting on Business

- ▶ The Master Councilor may entertain a motion
- ▶ Making the motion
- ▶ Seconding the motion
- ▶ Discussion. Don't be afraid to share your thoughts!
- ▶ Voting. Only proficient members can vote here. Vote for the good of the Order, even if it isn't popular.

Part 4: Remarks

- ▶ This is another level of speaking you may have to do at an event. If someone says “are there any remarks from the floor”, you may stand up. If you’re called on, you can say whatever you wanted to say to everyone (within reason). Here are some talking points:
- ▶ Did you enjoy the meeting? Did anything interesting happen?
- ▶ Would you like to invite these people to another event? (this is common when promoting events to other groups)
- ▶ Are you there to support these people?
- ▶ Thanks are always appreciated!
- ▶ Congratulations! You’ve made it through a meeting!

Part 5: Proficiency

- ▶ To be a fully fledged DeMolay is to be “proficient”. To be proficient, a member must recite the Obligations, or DeMolay oaths, by memory. Proficient members gain these privileges:
 - ▶ Voting on business at a meeting.
 - ▶ Voting for elected State Officers.
 - ▶ Voting on business at the State level.

Part 5 (continued): Learning

- ▶ Feel free to learn the Obligations one section at a time. There's no rush!
- ▶ Once you learn a new paragraph, try to recite everything you've memorized so far.
- ▶ If another learning strategy works better for you, great! Everyone has their own way of learning.
- ▶ Once you've "proven up", or recited the Obligations in your Chapter, congratulations! You are a fully fledged member of DeMolay!

**Congratulations! Good
Luck! Thank You!**

Any Questions?