Mrs Birling was a prominent member of the Brumley Women’s Charity Organisation. She persuaded the committee not to help Eva Smith. Imagine that you are Mrs Birling putting your point of view against Eva Smith at the committee meeting. Other members of the group may be more sympathetic to Eva’s plight. Some may agree with you. Act out the scene as it might have occurred.

1. Re-read the section of Act Two where Mrs Birling tells her part of the story, to check the events when Eva Smith appealed to the charity.

2. Make a list of all the points Mrs Birling might use in her argument against helping Eva, and a list of all the arguments other more caring members might use to persuade the group to help Eva.

3. Allocate roles, with an even number of people speaking for and against Eva. Use the ideas below if you like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaking against Eva</th>
<th>Speaking for Eva</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Birling</td>
<td>Miss Handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Righteous</td>
<td>Mr Givealot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Withered</td>
<td>Mrs Kind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* it might be wise to appoint a chairperson to move the discussion along.

4. Role play the committee meeting described by Mrs Birling until it runs smoothly - you may write down a rough script if you like.

When doing this you should try to:

- speak fluently and confidently
- adapt your talk to your task - choose a style of speaking which fits in with your character and with the context of a committee meeting
- listen closely and respond to the contributions of others
- try to manage the talk - make sure everyone gets their say
- promote your point of view by challenging what others say and making your own points powerfully.