



## Write a speech persuading others about your views.

### Your Role

The Speaker of the House of Commons is holding a contest giving youth the opportunity to be prime minister for a day. The Speaker will select a group of young “next prime ministers” based on their knowledge of how Canada’s political system works and how they would use it to respond to issues that affect Canadians. To enter the contest, prepare a speech that answers the question:

**As Canada’s prime minister, how would you respond to what you believe is the most important issue about government today?**

### Your Presentation

Your speech should include:

- Knowledge of how the three branches of government work to respond to issues that affect Canadians.
- An understanding of how the political system involves citizens in decision making.
- Facts and reasons supporting your judgments.

Part of being an effective prime minister is understanding how the federal political system works and how to use it to respond to issues. Use persuasion in your speech to show how you would “make the system work” for all Canadians. Prove yourself by the thoroughness of your ideas and your compelling presentation.

## Canada has had many influential prime ministers.



John A. Macdonald  
1867–1873  
1878–1891



Wilfrid Laurier  
1896–1911

### Let's get started!

What are some issues about government that you believe affect Canadians? Work with a small group to brainstorm some ideas. Why are these issues important? Who do these issues affect most?

This chapter introduces you to Canada's federal political system, and to issues it creates for citizenship and identity. Keep track of the issues you read about, and how they can create challenges and opportunities for Canadians. Summarize them using a chart like the one below. Add your ideas to the chart as you work through the chapter. The examples you collect will help you with your speech.



Inquire	Example	Example	Example
What is the issue about Canada's government?			
What challenges and opportunities does the issue create for Canadians?			
How will you use what you know about the political system to respond to the issue?			
<p><i>In my opinion, the most important issue about government today is... BECAUSE...</i></p> <p><i>I would use the system to respond to this issue by...</i></p>			

## YOU could be next!



John Diefenbaker  
1957–1963



Pierre Trudeau  
1968–1979  
1980–1984

