

Amendments—Instructor’s Guide
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Exercise 1.

1. Main Motion: That the Summer picnic be held on May 14, 2012, at 11:00 am.

Desire: A member wants the Summer picnic to be held an hour and a half later, at 12:30 pm.

Question: Which amendment should be used?

Insert or Add

Strike Out

Strike Out and Insert

Practice: Write the necessary Amendment. I move to amend by . . .

striking out “11:00 am” and inserting “12:30 pm.”

The member would move to amend by **striking out “11:00 am” and Inserting “12:30 pm.”**

2. Main Motion: That next season’s reading assignments shall be “Oliver Twist,” “Interview with the Vampire,” and “Sense and Sensibility.”

Desire: A member hates “Oliver Twist” and certainly does not want to read it next season.

Question: Which amendment should be used?

Insert or Add

Strike Out

Strike Out and Insert

Practice: Write the necessary Amendment. I move to amend by . . .

striking out “Oliver Twist.”

The member would move to amend by striking out “Oliver Twist.”

Here you’ll notice that a member does not have to insert a book to replace the one that is to be struck out. Later, any member can move to amend the motion by inserting another book title.

3. Main Motion: That the Activities Committee be instructed to reserve the Grand Auditorium at the Chester County Public Library for the dates of December 11 through 13.

Desire: A member wants to make sure that the committee books the reservation before the reservation deadline of September 1.

Question: Which amendment should be used?

Insert or Add

Strike Out

Strike Out and Insert

Practice: Write the necessary Amendment. I move to amend by . . .

adding “before the reservation deadline of September 1.”

The member can move to amend by **adding** “before the reservation deadline of September 1.” Or the member could move to **insert** the same language after “**Library.**”

Remember that when words are added, they are **placed at the end** of the motion, so there is no need to specify the location.

4. Main Motion: That the car wash be held the week of May 8th, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Desire: A member wants the car wash to be held only on Tuesday and Friday.

Question: Which amendment should be used?

Insert of Add

Strike Out

Strike Out and Insert

Practice: Write the necessary Amendment. I move to amend by . . .

striking out “Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday” and inserting “Tuesday and Friday.”

The member would move to amend by **striking out** “Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday” and **inserting** “Tuesday and Friday.”

Remember that the **words to strike out** must be consecutive.

Exercise 2. Germane Debate

When an Amendment is pending, **debate must be germane to the amendment.**

Decide if the debate in each situation below is germane to the Pending Amendment.

1. Original Motion: That a new television be purchased for the lounge at a cost not to exceed \$600.

Pending Amendment: To amend by striking out “for the lounge”

New Language: That a new television be purchased at a cost not to exceed \$600.

a. Debate: “I don’t think we have the money for a new television at this time.”

Yes, the debate is germane.

No, the debate is not germane.

Debate must be confined to whether or not the words “for the lounge” should be struck out of the motion. Any debate concerning whether or not the organization can afford the television will have to wait until the motion to purchase the television is pending.

b. Debate: “I believe the money would be better spent on a pool table than on a television.”

Yes, the debate is germane.

No, the debate is not germane.

The amendment is not concerned with deciding what to purchase. It is only concerned with the language “for the lounge.” Therefore, the debate is not germane.

c. Debate: “I think we need to know where the television is going to be used before we can authorize purchasing it.”

Yes, the debate is germane.

No, the debate is not germane.

This is germane because it speaks directly to whether or not the words “for the lounge” should be struck out.

2. Original Motion: That the old copy machine be sold on eBay.

Pending Amendment: To amend by striking out “sold on eBay” and inserting in its place the words “donated to charity.”

New Language: That the old copy machine be donated to charity.

a. Debate: “I think selling the machine on eBay will give us a nice little supplemental income that we need to help pay for the summer picnic.”

Yes, the debate is germane.

No, the debate is not germane.

This debate is germane, because it addresses a specific reason NOT to Strike Out the words “sold on eBay.”

b. Debate: “I think we’ve donated enough to charity this year.”

Yes, the debate is germane.

No, the debate is not germane.

The debate is germane, because it speaks directly to a reason NOT to insert the words “donate to charity.”

c. Debate: “I don’t think we should do anything with the copy machine.”

Yes, the debate is germane.

No, the debate is not germane.

This is not germane, since it does not address whether or not the language should be **changed** from “sold on eBay” to “donated to charity.” The amendment is concerned with **changing** the language. When the motion to dispose of the copy machine is pending, he can speak against it.
