

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE DEMO (9 players) created by Kurt-Alexander Zeller  
(demonstrates making, seconding, and discussing a motion; calling for the previous question;  
amending a motion; passing an amendment; and passing a motion. Begins at *Slide 23* of PowerPoint)

President: The Chair recognizes Delegate A. [*Slide 24 now*]

Delegate A: [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, I move that Mu Phi Epsilon Fraternity petition the U. S. Congress to declare the violet the official flower of the United States of America.

Delegate B: [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, I second the motion.

President: It has been moved and seconded that the Fraternity petition the United States Congress to declare the violet the official flower of the United States of America. Delegate A? [*Slide 25 now*]

Delegate A: The violet is a flower that is significant to all members of Mu Phi Epsilon. It has been highly valued throughout history by many cultures, but more especially it also is a plant that is native to every single state of the United States of America, including Alaska and Hawai'i. It is truly fitting to be the national flower of our great nation, and Mu Phis should rally behind it. [*Slide 26 now*]

President: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Delegate C.

Delegate C (with red card): [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, I oppose the motion. I love violets as much as any Mu Phi, but it's going to be a waste of time to try to get politicians in Washington to pay attention to flowers.

President: Thank you. Delegate B.

Delegate B (with green card): [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, the family *Violaceae* is among the largest and most diverse of all flower families. Although Mu Phis are most familiar with the purple violet, violet species actually flower in all colors and hues except true black. This diversity is not only typical of Mu Phi Epsilon, it is one of our national virtues as well. I urge adoption of the measure.

President: Delegate D.

Delegate D (with green card): [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, violets are tenacious and adaptable flowers. They can thrive under almost any conditions, adapting themselves to grow tall or short as circumstances dictate and pursuing evolutionary success by any means available, including broadcasting seeds, spreading by underground rhizomes, and even self-pollinating when traditional pollinators are not available. These qualities of ingenuity, innovation, and determination should inspire not only Mu Phis, but also all Americans. I support the motion.

[Delegates E and F are lined up with green cards, but G is at the other mike...]

President: Delegate G. [*Slide 27 now*]

Delegate G: [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, seeing only speakers in favor, I call for the Previous Question on petitioning the Congress to declare the violet the national flower.

Delegate A: [Name, Chapter]. I second the motion. [*Slide 28 now*]

President: The previous question is moved on petitioning Congress. All those who are in favor of ordering the previous question, please rise. [*Click, bullet 1.* Delegates A through D, plus G rise.] Be seated. All those opposed, please rise. [Delegates E, F, H rise.] Be seated. [*Click, bullet 2*] There are less than two-thirds in the affirmative, and the motion for the previous question is lost. The question is now on petitioning Congress to declare the violet the national flower. Debate may now resume. [*Click, bullet 3*] Delegate H.

Delegate H (with red card): [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, a Google search has revealed that in 1986, President Reagan signed Congressional legislation designating the rose as the national flower of the United States. Since the USA already has a national flower, and petitioning to change it would needlessly antagonize our colleagues in SAI, whose flower is the rose, I oppose the motion.

President: Thank you. Delegate F. [*Slide 29 now*]

Delegate F (with green card): [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, I move to amend the resolution by striking the word “flower” and inserting the words “herbaceous perennial” in its place.

Delegate B [Name, Chapter]. I second the motion. [*Slide 30 now*]

President: It has been moved and seconded to amend the question before the assembly by striking the word “flower” and inserting the words “herbaceous perennial.” Delegate F?

Delegate F: Surely Mu Phi is will not stand idly by while another music fraternity’s symbol is given sole national prominence. Since the rose is a woody shrub, while the much hardier and more valuable violet is an herbaceous perennial, a completely different class of plant, with the proposed amendment, Congress could honor both plants. [At this point, no one is standing at the mikes... *Click, bullet 1*]

President: Is there any further discussion? Seeing none... All those in favor of the amendment to strike the word “flower” and insert “herbaceous perennial,” please rise. [Delegates B, D, E, F, G, rise.] Be seated. All those opposed, please rise.

[Delegates A, C, H rise. *Click, bullet 2*] Be seated. The aye votes are in the majority; the motion to amend is carried. [*Click, bullet 3*] The question is now on the main motion as amended: *Resolved*, that the Fraternity petition Congress to declare the violet the official herbaceous perennial of the United States. [*Click, sub-bullet 3a*] The Chair recognizes Delegate E.

Delegate E (with green card). [Name, Chapter]. Madam President, I support the motion. Violets are highly useful plants. They are edible and the flowers are used to make candies, jams, and syrups, while the leaves can thicken stews. The essential oil of the violet is one of the most valuable of all perfumes—far more valuable, ounce for ounce, than that of the rose, I might add. Furthermore, as Delegate A has pointed out, the violet is native to all 50 of the United States, while the United States Department of Agriculture actually has classified the multiflora rose as a dangerous invasive species. [No one else is standing.]

President: Is there any further discussion? [Nobody rises] Are you ready for the question? The question is on the motion that the Fraternity petition Congress to declare the violet the official herbaceous perennial of the United States. All those in favor, please rise. [All Delegates except C and H rise.] Be seated. All opposed, please rise. [Delegates C & H rise.] The ayes have a majority; the motion is carried. [*Slide 31 now*]

NB. “Violaceae” is pronounced [/vɪəˈleɪsi/](#)