Classroom Convention issues

Issue 1: Should both Houses of Parliament have equal powers?

You each come from colonies that have their own parliaments. You agree that the federal parliament should be made up of a People’s House and a States’ House. What structure will this new parliament take, and how will it protect your interests?

You have to decide if:

a. The People’s House should be the stronger.
b. The States’ House should be the stronger.
c. The Houses should have equal powers.

Issue 2: Where will the new federal parliament be situated?

Australia is a very big place and most of the population lives in the mainland eastern colonies. You are concerned that the capital must be situated in a place which is convenient, but also well placed to serve the interests of your colony.

You have to decide if:

a. A federal capital should be a major city, either Sydney or Melbourne.
b. A federal capital should be built on a new site.
c. A new capital is not needed; meetings should be held in each of the capital cities in turn.