Students
- Introduce yourself, say your year, hometown and your major/school at UConn
- Thank the committee members for holding the hearing and for your opportunity to speak
- Thank them for the General Assembly’s past support and explain the need for that support to continue
- Your personal story of what drew you to UConn, why you think it is the best school for you, the ways in which you believe your UConn education is beneficial, etc. will be most compelling to committee members
- Describe what academic programs, research, or other activities at UConn that you have enjoyed
- Describe what you hope to do after graduation (particularly if it includes staying in Connecticut)
- Emphasize a theme (from above or one of your own) that may apply
- Explain how your studies, research or other activities benefit Connecticut and the economy

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Appropriations committee. My name is Ama Appiah. I am a fourth year student, studying Molecular and Cell Biology and Communication. I currently have the honor and pleasure to serve as the student body president of the undergraduate population at the Storrs campus. Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to speak about my UConn experience and how it has impacted my life thus far.

As a second generation child of two immigrant parents from Ghana, the importance of education has been engrained in my upbringing. I, along with my 2 brothers, had a private school education throughout our elementary, middle and high school years. I made the decision to attend a public institution for my degree because UConn is renowned for providing an exceptional education for value, as well as being a leader in STEM. Due to scholarships and the financial aid awarded to me, I’ve been blessed to attend a university that has pushed me to be a critical thinker, leader in my community, and ultimately, a strong advocate for a UConn education. During my four years, I’ve had the opportunity to pursue two majors, serve in six different leadership positions, design and lead an $8,000 independent clinical research study funded by the UConn IDEA grant program, all while working an on-campus job with University Communications.

My proudest achievement has been to serve as the first African American female undergraduate student body president. In this role, I’ve had the ability to give back to the university community that has given me so much, and it is extremely rewarding. I’ve been a force in academic policy as well as a diligent advocate for support and programming for experiential learning and preparing students for their post-graduation transition. I hope that with this advocacy, UConn students will have the drive and chance to stay in the state of Connecticut, and contribute to its economy.

Without the financial support I received from UConn, I would not have been able to accomplish what I have in my time at the university. Without state financial support for higher education, I would not have the resources and programs available for me to participate in. Without financial
support, the 17-year-old second generation Ghanaian-American student, and others like her, would not have had accessibility to higher education and fulfill her maximum potential. Thank you for your time.