

Activity: Water Crisis Simulation

Scenario: Your town is experiencing a severe water crisis due to drought. The government has limited water resources and strict regulations. Your group is part of a task force to find a sustainable solution, but every decision will have ripple effects across various sectors.

Group 1 – Environment

Propose a solution to conserve water that minimises environmental damage.

Challenge: Predict the long-term impact of your solution on wildlife, agriculture, and natural ecosystems.

Group 2 – Local Businesses

Propose a solution to manage water distribution while keeping local businesses (factories, farms, etc.) operational.

Challenge: Consider the economic consequences of rationing and the potential for business closures or job losses.

Group 3 – Citizens

Propose a solution to ensure fair access to water for households without causing public unrest.

Challenge: Balance water rationing with the health and daily needs of the population.

Group 4 – Government Policy

Propose a new government policy to regulate water use and punish violations.

Challenge: Consider the political backlash and legal challenges that could arise from overly strict enforcement.

Group 5 – Technology

Propose a technological innovation to address the water crisis (e.g., desalination or recycling).

Challenge: Weigh the cost, feasibility, and time required to implement the technology.

Group 6 – Public Health

Propose a solution to manage the health risks caused by the water crisis, such as sanitation issues and disease outbreaks.

Challenge: Balance water conservation efforts with maintaining hygiene standards in hospitals, schools, and public spaces, while considering the potential health crises that could emerge.

NB Like the other groups, they will need to present **two positive outcomes** and **two unintended negative consequences**, and defend their solutions against counter arguments from other groups.

Two Positive Outcomes:

The group should explain two **beneficial effects** that their solution could achieve. For example, in the case of **Group 6 (Public Health)**, a positive outcome might be improved hygiene and reduced disease transmission in public places.

Two Unintended Negative Consequences:

The group must also consider two **unexpected or negative effects** that could happen as a result of their solution. For **Group 6**, an unintended consequence might be that prioritizing water for hygiene leads to shortages in other critical areas like agriculture or industry, or that the increased cost of health measures creates economic strain.

Defending Their Solutions:

After presenting their solutions and consequences, the group will be asked questions or challenged by the other groups. They will need to defend or explain why they believe their solution is the best option despite the potential negative consequences. This helps them practice critical thinking, argumentation, and problem-solving under scrutiny.