**Town Hall: Should Springfield have a Nuclear Power Plant?**

To further put your knowledge to use at the end of this unit, you and your classmates will participate in a Springfield Town Council Meeting in which special interest groups will voice their position on amendment to build a nuclear power plant on the river and the town council will decide whether approve or deny the proposal. Some members of your class will moderate the “Nuclear Town Hall” and others will activity! Get into your roles! Use acting, costumes, banners, slogans, etc.

**Background on Power Plant Proposal:**

The Springfield Energy would like to build a two unit water pressurized nuclear power plant located on the Snake River. The reactor would be built on land currently owned by Springfield energy adjacent to the Springfield Reservoir. The cost of construction would be approximately $1.2 billion and would take seven years for completion. The current power plant is aging and will not meet the estimated demands within the next ten years. The proposed plant will be able to produce 1,258 megawatt hours or enough energy to power 750,000 homes in the greater Springfield area (Perry Nuclear Power Plant Preparedness, 2016). The reactor would add approximately 1000 construction jobs and upon completion employ 500 workers. The current plant employs only 300.

**Roles of Town Council**

Town Council

Pro Nuclear Citizens

Con Nuclear Citizens

Environmentalists

Nuclear Lobby

Conspiracy Theorists

Nuclear Power Plant Officials

Petroleum Lobby

**Positions**

Each special interest group will decide its position on the nuclear power plant. Group members should define their position and find evidence to support their decision and refute/support others opinions. Each group will have two minutes to present their case. Your group may choose among several possible approaches.

1. Analytical: This approach attempts to answer questions like why is nuclear power good or bad, how nuclear can benefit/harm society, is nuclear sustainable. This is research and data driven
2. Offensive/Defensive: Both the defensive and offensive follows the same approach. The benefits and downfalls of nuclear would be used against the opposing side. This is a more emotional stance that may not be able to be backed up by data.
3. Other: Perhaps some combination of approaches or your own style would work better for you.

Each group must come up with a minimum of five arguments to support its position. The group must prepare one question and one backup for each of the other groups, but will only question 3 groups. If any other group asks your question, the examiner must be ready with the backup question. Each special interest group must fill out forms stating the position of the group, the arguments it will present, and the questions for the other groups.

**Roles**

Each special interest group must elect a “spokesperson.” This person will address the Town Council and present arguments to the other citizens of Springfield. Each group must also have an “examiner.” This person will question the arguments of other groups.

**Backchannel**

During the debate a live backchannel discussion will be conducted via google classroom. The members of the group not acting as spokesperson or examiner will be expected to live “tweet” the town hall. A minimum of three, maximum of five posts need to be made. All posts need to be professional and relevant to the discussion.

**Rebuttal**

After all groups have made their presentations and answered questions, each group will have one minute for rebuttal. A rebuttal is your group’s chance to clarify its position, defend its actions, explain why it is not at fault, or suggest another group to be at fault. The spokesperson will address the rebuttal or, alternatively, a third person may be assigned to this task.

**The Final Decision**

After all of the arguments and rebuttals, the town council members will adjourn to make a decision on the matter and suggest a course for further action. The town council should ensure that the course of action in their plan is within their authority to implement.

# Works Cited

*Perry Nuclear Power Plant Preparedness*. (2016). Retrieved from Lake County Ohio: http://www.lakecountyohio.org/ema/Preparedness/Nuclear.aspx