



## CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY: AN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will:

- + Research information about different interest groups to be represented at a world conference on global warming;
- + Plan a strategy for participation at the world conference;
- + Plan proposals for effective, positive and cooperative global actions that will be satisfactory to all interest groups represented.

**MATERIALS:**

- + Copy of "***INTERNATIONAL MEETING DEMANDS GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE***" news article;
- + Chalk boards or large sheets of butcher paper;
- + Markers
- + Information Sheets
- + Paper and pencil

**PROCEDURE:**

1. As a warm up activity, have the entire class read the article "***INTERNATIONAL MEETING DEMANDS GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE***" and answer the questions that follow.
2. Explain to the class that they will be taking part in an imaginary world conference to discuss how people and nations might cooperate to decrease or slow down global warming or cope with the changes that it may cause.
3. Divide the class into teams of 4-5 students to present the different groups:
  - + Environmentalists/Conservationists
  - + Fossil Fuel Advocates
  - + Industrialists
  - + Developing Nations
  - + Island Nations

## Teacher Sheet 2

- + Alternative Energy Advocates
- + Automobile Manufacturers
- + Farmers and Ranchers
- + Future Generations

4. Give each group their **Information Sheet** (See attached)
5. Explain that this conference has been organized to allow each group to present their point of view and to collectively look for some solutions that are acceptable to some or all of the groups.
  - + Emphasize that this is not a debate, rather an attempt to find who is affected and how and to work out ways of doing something about it.
6. Each group should appoint a "**Reader**" who will read the description and questions to the group and a "**Recorder**" to write down everyone's ideas in response to the 4 questions on their information page.
  - + Allow 15-20 minutes for each team member to re-read the information sheets and record their ideas.
7. Collect the notes from each group and read and edit them before the next class period. Add any comments you feel will be helpful.
8. Post butcher paper around the room for each group.
9. Return the edited notes to each group.
  - + Give students about 20 minutes to discuss and finalize their statements to the conference and the solutions they suggest to either simply cope with a warmer world or reduce the concentration of  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere.
  - + Each solution they suggest should be written on a strip of paper and ready to be read to the class.
10. Each group will present their statements and solutions to the class.
  - + The presentation may last no more than 5 minutes.

### Teacher Sheet 3

- + Two additional minutes can be allowed for questions.
- + As statements and suggestions are read, they should be recorded on the butcher paper for each group.

#### 11. Discuss possible solutions with the entire class.

- + Ask the assembled delegates whether they think that any of the proposed suggestions are acceptable to all or at least a majority of the groups.
- + Discuss the relative merits of the suggestions and rewrite or modify the statements to arrive at a list of 3-4 statements that are acceptable to most.
- + Taking each solution in turn, give each group 30 seconds to decide whether they vote "Yes", "No" or "Maybe."
- + Take 1 vote from each group and record the results next to the solution. Discuss the results with the class.
- + Instruct students to Individually choose the point of view they relate to the best and defend it in a paragraph of about 500 words or less.