

Discussion and Facilitation: Strengthening Skills in Class Activities

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APPENDIX: Discussion Role-play

Discussion topic: Should less developed nations be held to the same standards as developed nations for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions? The discussion involves two experts. Expert #1 represents the developed nations and believes that all nations should be held to the same standards for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions (for environmental and political reasons, given that some less developed nations are major polluters). Expert #2 represents the less developed nations and believes that the less developed nations should not be held to the same standards as developed nations for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions (mainly because they are developing economically, and developed nations emit the majority of pollutants).

Role 1: Facilitator

Your responsibility is to introduce the topic and facilitate the discussion. Ask speakers to briefly state their perspectives; then, facilitate the discussion by posing questions, paraphrasing responses, stimulating interaction, and engaging the audience member. Conclude the discussion by synthesizing areas of agreement and disagreement.

Role 2: Expert #1, representing the developed nations

You believe that all nations should be held to the same standards for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions (for environmental and political reasons, given that some less developed nations are major polluters). Logically support your arguments, though you may invent facts and statistics. Interact with the other speaker and facilitator by responding to questions.

Role 3: Expert #2, representing the less developed nations

You believe that less developed nations should not be held to the same standards as developed nations for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions (mainly because they are developing economically, and developed nations emit the majority of pollutants). Logically support your arguments, though you may invent facts and statistics. Interact with the other speaker and facilitator by responding to questions.

Role 4: Audience member/observer

You are an observer and audience member to the discussion about whether less developed nations should be held to the same standards as developed nations for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Participate in the discussion by posing questions to the discussants and sharing constructive feedback after the discussion about the facilitator's and discussants' performances.