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Role-Playing Activity: The Sprinkler Mandate Debate

What is this activity about?

You will participate in a role-playing activity where you'll take on the role of a stakeholder involved in a real-world policy debate: whether or not the city of Philadelphia should require all high-rise buildings to have fire sprinkler systems. This is a complex issue with different viewpoints, and your goal is to understand your assigned stakeholder's perspective and argue their position using evidence and credible sources.

Why are we doing this?

This activity will help you:

- Apply what you've learned about fire science, data analysis, and source evaluation to a real-world situation.
- Develop your skills in argumentation, persuasion, and critical thinking.
- Understand the complexities of policy-making and the importance of data in making informed decisions.
- Learn to consider different perspectives on an issue.

Here's how it will work:

1. **Roles:** I will assign you to a group, and each group will represent a different stakeholder:
 - City Council Member - Safety Advocate
 - Property Owners' Association Representative
 - Firefighters' Union Representative
 - Insurance Company Analyst
 - Tenants' Rights Advocate
2. **Research and Preparation:** You will work with your group to:
 - Thoroughly understand your assigned role and their interests.
 - Research the issue of sprinkler mandates, focusing on data and evidence related to your stakeholder's concerns.
 - Find credible sources to support your arguments (you'll use the CRAAP method to evaluate them).
 - Prepare a presentation or talking points to present your stakeholder's position.
3. **Presentation/Debate:** Your group will present your arguments to the class.
 - Clearly state your stakeholder's position on the sprinkler mandate.
 - Present the data and evidence that supports your arguments.

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- Explain why your sources are credible (using the CRAAP method).
- Respond to questions and counterarguments from other groups.
- 4. **Assessment:** Your participation in this activity will be assessed based on:
 - Your understanding of your assigned role.
 - The clarity and effectiveness of your arguments.
 - How well you use data and evidence to support your claims.
 - Your ability to evaluate the credibility of your sources (CRAAP method).
 - Your overall communication and presentation skills.

What is expected of me?

- **Active Participation:** Be actively involved in your group's research, preparation, and presentation.
- **Role Understanding:** Thoroughly understand your assigned stakeholder's perspective, interests, and concerns.
- **Evidence-Based Arguments:** Support your arguments with specific data and evidence from credible sources.
- **Source Evaluation:** Use the CRAAP method to evaluate the sources you use and be able to explain your evaluations.
- **Clear Communication:** Present your arguments clearly and persuasively, using appropriate language.
- **Respectful Engagement:** Listen carefully to other groups and respond to their arguments in a respectful and constructive manner.

Getting Started:

1. I will give you a Role-Play Card that describes your assigned stakeholder and their perspective.
2. Use the "Argument Organizer & Source Citation Template" to structure your research and prepare your presentation.
3. Use the provided resources (and others you find) to gather information.
Remember to evaluate your sources using the CRAAP method!
4. Work collaboratively with your group to develop a strong and persuasive case.

Good luck, and be prepared to make your voices heard!

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Role-Playing Activity: The Sprinkler Mandate Debate - Grading Rubric

I will use this rubric to assess your work:

Criteria	Exemplary (4 points)	Proficient (3 points)	Developing (2 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)
Role Understanding & Engagement	You fully embody your assigned role, demonstrating a deep understanding of the stakeholder's perspective, interests, and concerns. You actively and thoughtfully participate throughout the activity.	You demonstrate a good understanding of your assigned role and actively participate in the activity.	You show some understanding of your assigned role but may occasionally deviate or not fully engage. Participation may be inconsistent.	You demonstrate limited understanding of your assigned role and participate minimally or are disengaged.
Argumentation & Use of Evidence	Your arguments are clear, logical, and strongly supported by relevant data and evidence. Your group effectively uses data to persuade and counter opposing viewpoints.	Your arguments are generally clear and supported by some relevant data and evidence. Your group attempts to use data to support your position.	Your arguments may be unclear, lack strong supporting evidence, or rely on opinions rather than data. The use of data is limited or ineffective.	Your arguments are unclear, unsupported by evidence, or irrelevant to the topic. Data is not used or is misused.
Source Evaluation (CRAAP)	Your group consistently and accurately applies the CRAAP method to evaluate the	Your group applies the CRAAP method to evaluate most of your sources, providing	Your group attempts to apply the CRAAP method but may have inconsistencies	Your group does not effectively apply the CRAAP method or fails to evaluate the

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	credibility of your sources, clearly explaining the currency, reliability, authority, and purpose of the information used to support your arguments.	reasonable explanations of currency, reliability, authority, and purpose.	or inaccuracies in their evaluations. Explanations of currency, reliability, authority, or purpose may be weak or missing for some sources.	credibility of your sources. Sources may be used without consideration of their currency, reliability, authority, or purpose.
Clarity & Communication	Your group presents your arguments clearly and effectively, using appropriate language and persuasive communication skills. You respond thoughtfully to questions and counterarguments.	Your group generally presents your arguments clearly and communicates your ideas adequately. You respond to most questions and counterarguments.	Your group's presentation may be unclear or difficult to follow. Communication may be weak, and responses to questions or counterarguments may be limited or unclear.	Your group's presentation is unclear and ineffective. Communication is poor, and you struggle to respond to questions or counterarguments.