

## Student Sheet 4.3- Preparing for Your Role



Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** You will have 2-3 minutes to give a presentation and respond to questions from the audience. Be creative with your presentation and try to take on the role of your organization.

**1. What is the name and mission of your organization?**

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**2. Why is your organization involved in this decision?**

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**3. What clean up plan does your organization want?**

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**4. Write two facts you will present to persuade the others that the plan you want is the one they should choose?**

1.

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2.

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**5. Write two emotional points you will present to persuade the others that the plan you want is the one they should choose?**

1.

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2.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**Research and prepare answers to the following questions. Include them in your presentation.**

1. The City is paying for the clean-up. If more money is allocated for this project than is available, how will you convince the rest of Austin's citizens that excavation and removal of the pesticide pocket AND the topsoil is worth an increase in taxes ?

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2. The data available indicates that the pesticide (toxaphene and DDT) mixed with the topsoil is diluted enough so as not to present a hazard. This level of pesticide exists regularly in agricultural fields across America without adverse effect. How can you justify topsoil removal?

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## AUSTIN TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (ATCHD)

**Research and prepare answers to the following questions. Include them in your presentation.**

1. Your research showed that the major component of the pesticides (toxaphene) had a short half-life (the amount of time it takes for 50% of the chemical to break down). Therefore, you support pesticide pocket removal only. How long is the half-life, and how do you propose to protect the public from the contaminated topsoil on the ballfield during this time?
2. Would your agency be willing to test the topsoil again after the supposed half-life to test for safe levels before opening the ballfield to play?
3. DDT is a component of the pesticides and was banned by the EPA. How can you justify leaving any level of DDT in the topsoil of the ballfield where children would come in contact with it?

## **ROBSTOWN BUENA VISTA MOBILE HOME PARK ASSOCIATION**

**Research and prepare answers to the following questions. Include them in your presentation.**

1. The Hazardous Waste Disposal Site in Robstown is designed to contain and protect the public from Hazardous Waste. Why do you think you are not protected from the hazardous waste?
2. Not every town has a hazardous waste landfill. Do you think it is better for every town and city to have its own hazardous waste site resulting in hazardous waste buried in hundreds of pockets across Texas, or to concentrate the hazardous waste in large landfills that have geology that would protect the ground and surface water the way it is now? Why?
3. What do you think is the best way to dispose of pesticides? Why?

## **GIRLS' LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM/ATHLETIC GROUP REPRESENTATIVES**

**Research and prepare answers to the following questions. Include them in your presentation.**

1. The major component of the pesticides (toxaphene) is diluted with the topsoil. Agricultural field applications apply the same rate and it is considered safe. Why don't you think the dilution level would be safe for the ballfield, especially since the pesticides should keep away pests that would normally bite and cause problems for children?
2. The City is paying for the clean-up. If more money is allocated for this project than is available, how will you convince the rest of Austin's citizens that excavation and removal of the pesticide pocket AND the topsoil is worth an increase in taxes ?

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3. The pesticides shouldn't present a hazard to humans through skin exposure. The children won't be drinking or ingesting the pesticides, so what is the problem?

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

**Research and prepare answers to the following questions. Include them in your presentation.**

1. Find other examples of toxic waste being excavated then the area on top contained to support your position.
2. DDT is a component of the pesticides and was banned by the EPA. How can you justify leaving any level of DDT in the topsoil of the ballfield where children would come in contact with it?
3. Topographically, the ballfield is a flowpath to the pond where the fish kill occurred. Won't the pesticide mixed with the topsoil continue to contaminate the pond?

## THE CITY OF AUSTIN

**Research and prepare answers to the following questions. Include them in your presentation.**

1. Find other examples of toxic waste being excavated then the area on top contained to support your position.
2. Find out the current drainage fee, the number of homeowners paying taxes, the cost of pesticide pocket excavation vs. including the removal of the topsoil, and estimate the increase that would be necessary to fund both excavation and topsoil removal.
3. Country Club Creek does not contribute to our drinking water segment of the Colorado. Explain why the levels of pesticides in the topsoil and creek are not threatening to humans.