

Middle School Agricultural Issues Discussion Meet Guided Outline

Opening

One team member should introduce the team and themselves. Then other team members should introduce themselves. For example: “We’re the Middle School Agricultural Issues Team from _____ Middle School. I’m John Smith and at this time my team mates will introduce themselves. (Each team member will introduce themselves in turn.)

One team member will then introduce the issue. For example: “Today we are going to be discussing the issue of urban sprawl.”

One team member will give a broad overview of the issue without taking a side. This should be 2-4 sentences and define the issue.

Generally, the opening should take one minute or less

Discussion

Team members (either two or four) will go back and forth discussing the issue.

Students are allowed to use note cards. It is acceptable for the discussion to be rehearsed.

The discussion should be conversational in nature. The purpose of the discussion is to share multiple perspectives on the issue while educating the audience on the issue.

The discussion should take approximately five to seven minutes.

Closing

One team member should wrap up the discussion. For example “We hope our discussion today has helped you learn more about _____. Are there any questions?”

Questions

Judges will ask questions about the issue. One team member should answer the first question. Another team member can give additional information or follow up as needed.

To the extent possible, a different team member should answer the next question and continue rotating who is answering.

