

Party Caucus: Climate Change

Time: 60-90 minutes

Objectives:

1. To review and synthesize information from our climate change articles
2. To develop party perspectives on Climate Change
3. To understand and clarify the opposing party's view on climate change
4. To have the opportunity to ask any further follow-up questions.

Materials - each caucus will need:

1. Whiteboard marker, whiteboard
2. Post-it notes
3. A notetaker (once ideas are synthesized, notetakers will work together on a google doc to lay out party perspectives clearly – doc should be shared with me)
4. Articles on climate change

Instructions:

1. *Assemble* in your party caucus – As your senator, find members of your own party
2. *Hijack* one of the whiteboards from me, and create a work space.
3. See me for all necessary materials (see above)
4. *Subdivide!* Within your caucus, subdivide into groups/pairs based on who read each article. The groups should be roughly even. If you do not have even groups, you will have to create them – each group will have the task of synthesizing their article.
5. *Refresh* the article in your smaller group. As you go, jot down key points on post-it notes. Key points should outline your party's perspective and can be...
 - a. Facts
 - b. Party Perspectives
 - c. Short analysis of the issue
 - d. Quotes
 - e. Potential solutions
 - f. What else?
6. *Post it!* Once you have finished your article, stick up your post-it notes on the whiteboard. As groups finish, more post-its will be flying up on the board. As they come up, organize the post-its into appropriate categories – you will have to

pick the categories (and how many of them there will be) based on the kinds of evidence and key points your caucus pulls out of the articles.

7. *Categorize!* Organize your post-its into columns based on categories or kinds of key points. Label each column.
8. *Round it out!* FIRST...add relevant points/quotes/solutions from your party's platform. If you are short on evidence or key points, go to my DP Docs page and look at the additional resource articles on climate change. Repeat the process until your party feels comfortable with the quality (and quantity) of your perspective on climate change.
9. *Notetaking:* As this is emerging, your notetaker (you can have more than one) will be organizing a google doc, shared with me and the other notetaker, that will summarize your party's position on climate change.
10. *Questions?* If there are any un-answered questions, questions for the other party, or things your party just needs to know more about, write the at the end of your document.
11. *Share!* Group around the other party's whiteboard. The other party will talk you through their approach, potential solutions, facts, and analysis. While they talk, your notetaker should keep track of potential overlaps between your party and theirs. Switch, and do the same. Notetakers share the google docs with me, and I will combine them and get them posted for all students to access.

Did we meet our primary objectives?

You should have a *very solid* idea of how your party approaches climate change, and a *nuanced understanding* of how your opposing party views climate change.