



Social Scenario #6

Politics or Planet?



Step into the complex world of Greg, a local politician. After diving into his story, group up with your buddies and figure out the best path forward for him. Remember, every decision comes with its own set of challenges and benefits. You've got 1 hour to mull it over before sharing your insights with the class!

'I'm not sure what I should do. Can you help?'



READ THE SCENARIO BELOW AND HELP GREG DECIDE.

Greg is a politician who has always been an advocate for the environment. He's seen the damage that some industries, like coal mining, can cause to the planet. The evidence is clear: the local coal mine has had a negative impact on the environment, harming both the air and nearby water sources. Greg believes that for the sake of the Earth and future generations, the coal mine should be closed.

But there's a twist. The coal mine is a major employer in the area. Hundreds of families depend on the wages earned from the mine. If Greg pushes for its closure, many will be without jobs, and the local economy could suffer. Greg also knows that if he chooses the environment over employment, the community might not support him in the next election.

ETHICS are when we do what we know to be right, even if people are upset with our decision.

GREG



'I want to protect the earth, but I also care deeply about the well-being of my community and want to keep my job.'

COAL MINER



'This mine feeds my family. Without it, how will I pay the bills?'

LOCAL RESIDENT



'The coal mine is causing people to get sick but we know that it provides us with cheaper electricity.'

THESE QUESTIONS MAY HELP YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION!

- Why is it important for Greg to consider both the environment and the local jobs?
- What are the long-term effects on the community if the coal mine continues?
- What alternative industries or job opportunities could be introduced if the mine closes?
- How can Greg communicate his concerns and intentions to the community to gain their understanding and trust?
- Could there be a phased approach to closing the mine, allowing time for alternative job creation?
- What are the potential consequences if Greg chooses the environment and the mine is closed?
- If Greg doesn't act on the environmental concerns, what could happen in the future?

KEY VOCABULARY

POLITICAN	ELECTION
COAL MINE	ECONOMY
ENVIRONMENT	DECISION
JOB	ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNITY	FUTURE

