

## **Supplement 2. Discussion Section Agendas**

### **Discussion Section Agenda 1**

Before the meeting: Consult and review the resources listed in the “Discussion Section Materials” section of the weekly module.

During the meeting:

1. Introduce yourself to your team and share why you are interested in taking this course.
2. Introduce your character to your team and tell your team how you are similar and/or different from your character.
3. Test out your technology so that by the end of your meeting you are comfortable connecting via both audio and video, typing notes to your team, and sharing important documents.

Avoid these meeting traps!

- Don’t spend time dwelling on the “unknowns” of your character or the class. As the weeks progress, you will discover more. We will always point you in the right direction.
- In order to ensure that you are able to make it through the agenda during your discussion time, avoid chatting about items not on the agenda.

This week, your team’s goal is to get to know one another, your characters, and explore the Learning Management System (Canvas) Conferences technology, Big Blue Button.

1. One by one, discuss:
  - What did you do over the holiday break?
  - What interests you about this class?
  - What character are you?
  - What’s your character's perspective on the issue of rainforest deforestation?
2. We recommend that you share contact information with your team (emails, phone numbers, etc.) so that you have a variety of ways of getting in touch throughout the quarter.

After the meeting:

1. Refine, complete, and submit the Biosketch Assignment.
2. Continue your conversation online in the Biosketch Team Discussion Forum in Canvas.

## Discussion Section Agenda 2

Before the meeting: Consult and review the resources listed in the “Discussion Section Materials” section of the weekly module.

During the meeting:

1. Don't forget to arrive at your team meeting as your role and stay in character throughout the discussion.
2. Assign a notetaker to take notes in the Hypothesis Worksheet (we suggest Maria or Marco).

Avoid these meeting traps!

- Don't spend time dwelling on the “unknowns” of the case or the class. As the weeks progress, you will discover more. We will always point you in the right direction.
- In order to ensure that you are able to make it through the agenda during your discussion time, avoid chatting about items not on the agenda.

This week, your team's goal is to sort out what a research hypothesis is, and to come up with a feasible and testable hypothesis about the problem of rainforest destruction in Brazil.

1. One by one, briefly remind your team:
  - What character are you?
  - What's your character's perspective on the issue of rainforest deforestation?
2. Discuss what makes a hypothesis good or bad.  
(Unsure? Review the Discussion Section Materials in the weekly module)
3. Generate possible hypotheses about the problem of rainforest destruction in Brazil.
  - For each hypothesis that your team creates, consider the following:
    - What is the role of humans in the process of rainforest destruction?
    - How does the political and economic background of your character influence their perspective on a given hypothesis?

After the meeting:

1. Refine, complete, and submit the Hypothesis Worksheet.

### Discussion Section Agenda 3

Before the meeting: Consult and review the resources listed in the “Discussion Section Materials” section of the weekly module.

During the meeting:

1. Don't forget to arrive at your team meeting as your role and stay in character throughout the discussion.
2. Assign a notetaker to take notes in the Final Hypothesis Worksheet (we suggest Carolina or Antonio).

Avoid these meeting traps!

- Don't spend time dwelling on the “unknowns” of the case or the class. As the weeks progress, you will discover more. We will always point you in the right direction.
- In order to ensure that you are able to make it through the agenda during your discussion time, avoid chatting about items not on the agenda.

This week, your team's goal is to use our feedback on your Hypothesis Worksheet to refine and finalize your research hypothesis, ensuring that your team comes up with a feasible and testable hypothesis about the problem of rainforest destruction in Brazil.

1. Review our feedback on your Hypothesis Worksheet
2. Discuss the variety of ways that your research hypothesis could be improved, keeping in mind that your hypothesis should be a declarative statement about the nature and direction of expected relationships between factors/variables.  
(Unsure? Review the Discussion Section Materials in the weekly modules)
3. Refine your hypothesis about the problem of rainforest destruction in Brazil.
  - Remember to consider the following:
    - What is the role of humans in the process of rainforest destruction?
    - How does the political and economic background of your character influence their perspective for a given hypothesis?

After the meeting:

1. Refine, complete, and submit the Final Hypothesis Worksheet.

## Discussion Section Agenda 4

Before the meeting: Consult and review the resources listed in the “Discussion Section Materials” section of the weekly module.

During the meeting:

1. Don't forget to arrive at your team meeting as your role and stay in character throughout the discussion.
2. Assign a notetaker to take notes in the Ecosystem Services Worksheet (we suggest Rachel or Maria).

Avoid these meeting traps!

- Don't spend time dwelling on the “unknowns” of the case or the class. As the weeks progress, you will discover more. We will always point you in the right direction.
- In order to ensure that you are able to make it through the agenda during your discussion time, avoid chatting about items not on the agenda.

This week, your team's goal is to review and react to three articles (Hint: Review the Discussion Section Materials in the weekly module) that discuss the ecosystem services provided by the Amazon rainforest, and come to a consensus on the credibility of the scientific evidence provided in each article.

1. Discuss what is meant by “ecosystem services” and why these services are important
2. Discuss the scientific evidence presented in each article (e.g., what type of evidence is presented and what/who is the sources of the evidence)
3. One by one, discuss:
  - Your character's perspective of each article

After the meeting:

1. Refine, complete, and submit the Ecosystem Services Worksheet.

## Discussion Section Agenda 5

Before the meeting: Consult and review the resources listed in the “Discussion Section Materials” section of the weekly module.

During the meeting:

1. Don't forget to arrive at your team meeting as your role and stay in character throughout the discussion.
2. Assign a notetaker to take notes in the Rainforest Value Worksheet (we suggest Marco or Carolina).

Avoid these meeting traps!

- Don't spend time dwelling on the “unknowns” of the case or the class. As the weeks progress, you will discover more. We will always point you in the right direction.
- In order to ensure that you are able to make it through the agenda during your discussion time, avoid chatting about items not on the agenda.

This week, your team's goal is to determine the value of the Amazon rainforest, as well as what is at stake if deforestation in the Amazon rainforest is allowed to continue.

1. One by one, discuss:
  - Your character's thoughts about the value of the Amazon rainforest
  - Your character's perspectives on the hazards, risks, and costs associated with continued Amazon rainforest deforestation
  - Your character's opinions about who stands to gain or lose if destruction of the Amazon rainforest continues

After the meeting:

1. Refine, complete, and submit the Rainforest Value Worksheet.

## Discussion Section Agenda 6

Before the meeting: Do the readings, watch the lecture and supplemental videos, and consult and review the resources listed in the “Discussion Section Materials” section of the weekly module.

During the meeting:

1. This week you can take a break from your assigned role and speak from your own perspective throughout the meeting.
2. Assign a notetaker to take notes in the Bending the Curve Worksheet (we suggest Antonio or Rachel).

Avoid these meeting traps!

- Don’t spend time dwelling on the “unknowns” of the case or the class. As the weeks progress, you will discover more. We will always point you in the right direction.
- In order to ensure that you are able to make it through the agenda during your discussion time, avoid chatting about items not on the agenda.

This week, your team’s goal is to evaluate the University of California (UC) system’s carbon neutrality commitments, and the value of local efforts in the state of California and beyond to “bend the curve.”

1. One by one, discuss:
  - Your thoughts about the UC Bending the Curve Report and the UC Report on Sustainable Practices.
  - Your perspectives on the UC system’s commitment to be carbon neutral by 2025.
  - Your opinion of local efforts (e.g., state of California and other US states, US Climate Mayors, Global Covenant of Mayors, C40 cities) to “bend the curve.”

After the meeting:

1. Refine, complete, and submit the Bending the Curve Worksheet.

## Discussion Section Agenda 7

Before the meeting: Consult and review the resources listed in the “Discussion Section Materials” section of the weekly module.

During the meeting:

1. Don't forget to arrive at your team meeting as your role and stay in character throughout the discussion.
2. Assign a notetaker to take notes in the Decision-Making Worksheet (we suggest Maria or Marco).

Avoid these meeting traps!

- Don't spend time dwelling on the “unknowns” of the case or the class. As the weeks progress, you will discover more. We will always point you in the right direction.
- In order to ensure that you are able to make it through the agenda during your discussion time, avoid chatting about items not on the agenda.

This week, your team's goal is to consider the ethical implications of taking no action to curb deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, as well as to determine the strength of the scientific evidence supporting the link between destruction of the Amazon rainforest and global climate change, and the amount of uncertainty that is present in this evidence.

1. Discuss the ethics of Amazon rainforest deforestation
2. Discuss the evidence supporting the links between Amazon rainforest destruction and global climate change and the uncertainty of this evidence
3. Discuss who you think is qualified to provide evidence regarding the environmental quality and health impacts of Amazon rainforest deforestation (don't forget to consider the role of climate change deniers)
4. Discuss one possible policy solution to the problem of Amazon rainforest destruction

After the meeting:

1. Refine, complete, and submit the Decision-Making Worksheet.