

Mother Earth Visionaries Utopia Waste Management Plan Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

It's a dubious honor to belong to the Mother Earth Visionaries. On one hand you're blessed with extraordinary vision of the past and future, yet at times also cursed with the vast knowledge of what humans have done and will someday do to Mother Earth.

Unlike the other groups, only you have an almost mystical connection to Mother Earth and the profound interrelationships of all the abiotic and biotic factors that affect all lifeforms. Your group understands the evolution of human waste streams and the tipping points of how human generated wastes can create unbalance in natural ecosystems. You also believe that humans should strive to maintain an "ecological balance" with all other living citizens of Mother Earth and that the discarded trappings of human excess should not harm the planet.

Your group will conduct online research and prepare your own **Utopia Waste Management Plan** that supports your visionary wisdom. When developing your plan, consider the goals of the other groups and how they conform or conflict with your goals of a Mother Earth to live in balanced harmony with humans. In class Sessions 3 and 4, all of the groups will present their plans then have a class debate on solutions to developing an overall waste management plan that best serves the interests of the various citizens of Mother Earth (both present and future).

Consider these points when developing your plan and debating in class:

- Begin your research by watching the classroom video, *Following the Waste Management Hierarchy* (weblink TBD)
- Because other groups lack your understanding of how all systems function to stay in balance with Mother Earth, you must speak strongly on their behalf to help all species survive. If the ultimate survival of Mother Earth depends on making other groups see through the eyes of the entire planet, then you must convince them with your hearts and minds.
- Some of the other group plans will fail to consider a prime "seven generations" directive of your group. You make decisions similar to many Native American

cultures that consider not only the present, but the impacts of decisions on seven generations into the future. Use factual history about the poisoning of Mother Earth to help others envision what can happen in the future with waste mismanagement.

- Research and present your case of how humans represent the ultimate keystone species that have shaped the destiny of all species that share Mother Earth. Try to instill in the other groups the great responsibility that humans must assume in that keystone role.
- Finally, use your vision of the past and future to help other groups achieve their goals, while also contributing to a common goal that listens to the voice of Mother Earth.