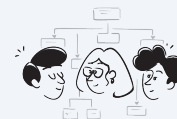


Role cards (all levels)



Name:

Date:

Why Some People Think Sustainable Development Goals Are a Waste of Time 🌍🤔

Environmental Scientist



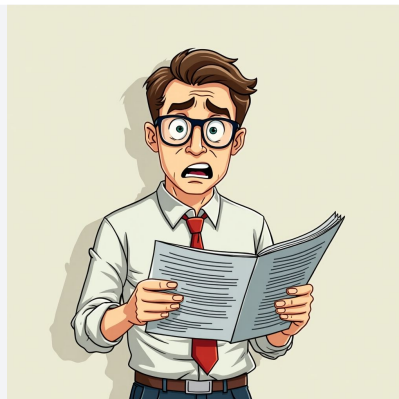
Role: The advocate for the environment and sustainable development.

Responsibilities:

- Explain the importance of sustainable development goals for the environment.
- Provide examples of successful sustainable projects.
- Highlight the benefits of these goals in combating climate change.
- Argue for the necessity of global cooperation.

The environmental scientist believes that sustainable development goals are essential for preserving the planet for future generations.

Economist



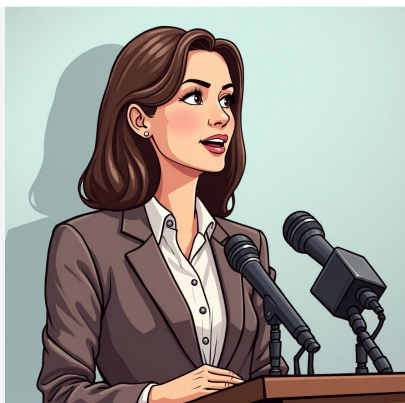
Role: The expert in economics and financial impacts.

Responsibilities:

- Discuss the economic costs of implementing sustainable development goals.
- Argue whether these goals provide a return on investment.
- Highlight the potential financial burdens on developing countries.
- Suggest more cost-effective alternatives.

The economist is concerned that the funds allocated for sustainable development goals could be better spent elsewhere.

Politician



Role: The policymaker involved in creating and promoting public policies.

Responsibilities:

- Defend the political commitment to sustainable development goals.
- Explain the role of government in achieving these goals.
- Discuss the political challenges and opposition.
- Highlight the importance of policy in driving change.

The politician is dedicated to convincing others that sustainable development goals are a crucial part of their policy agenda.

Community Leader



Role: The representative of local communities and their interests.

Responsibilities:

- Share the perspective of local communities on sustainable development goals.
- Discuss any challenges or benefits experienced by communities.
- Argue whether these goals address the needs of the people.
- Suggest ways to involve communities more effectively.

The community leader believes in grassroots involvement and is skeptical about the top-down approach of sustainable development goals.



How to work with your role card

Step 1: Make sure you understand your role and do some research if necessary so you have all the facts you need for the debate.

Step 2: Check out the other role cards so you prepare arguments specifically for them.

Step 3: Prepare some additional notes that you can take with you into the debate and prepare your opening statement.

Help section

Here are some debate starters and arguments to help you get started

Debate Starters and Arguments

Theses/Questions to Get the Debate Started

1. **Why is it important to care about the environment and sustainable development?**
2. **Do you think spending money on sustainable development is a good idea? Why or why not?**
3. **How can we make sure everyone, including local communities, is involved in sustainable development?**

Arguments for Each Role

Environmental Scientist

1. Importance of Sustainable Development Goals

- **Argument 1:** Sustainable development helps protect our planet for future generations. For example, planting more trees now can help reduce pollution and provide cleaner air.
- **Argument 2:** Many successful projects show that sustainable practices work. For instance, using solar energy instead of coal reduces harmful emissions and saves money in the long run.
- **Argument 3:** Working together globally can help combat climate change. Countries can share ideas and resources to tackle big problems like rising sea levels.

Economist

1. Economic Costs and Benefits

- **Argument 1:** Implementing sustainable development goals can be very expensive. Building wind farms or solar panels costs a lot of money upfront.
- **Argument 2:** It's important to consider if the money spent on these goals will give us good returns. For example, will investing in green technologies create enough jobs to be worth the cost?
- **Argument 3:** Developing countries may struggle financially to adopt these goals. We should think about more affordable ways to help them become sustainable.

Politician

1. Political Commitment and Government Role

- **Argument 1:** Governments need to commit to sustainable development to make real change. Policies like banning single-use plastics can help reduce waste.
- **Argument 2:** Governments play a key role in making these goals happen. They can pass laws that encourage people and businesses to go green.
- **Argument 3:** There are political challenges, like opposition from groups who don't want change. But strong policies are needed to drive progress and protect the environment.

Community Leader

1. Local Community Perspective

- **Argument 1:** Local communities have unique insights into what works best for them. Sustainable development goals should include their voices to be effective.
 - **Argument 2:** These goals often overlook the immediate needs of local people. For example, while building a wind farm is good for the environment, it might displace local farmers.
 - **Argument 3:** It's important to involve communities directly in planning and decision-making. This way, the goals are more likely to succeed and be accepted by everyone.
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Feel free to use these debate starters and arguments to spark a lively discussion among the participants!