

TASK ONE – EXPLAINING THE PROBLEM

The first thing you and your classmates will need to do is to clearly explain the problem you have chosen. You will need to explain why the problem is important, which individuals or groups in the community are interested in this problem, and which part of government has responsibility for dealing with it. To accomplish this you will need to answer the following questions:

1. What is the problem that you and your classmates want to study?

2. How serious is this problem in your community?

3. How widespread is this problem in your community?

4. Why is it a problem that should be handled by government?

5. Should anyone else in the community take responsibility for solving the problem?

6. Is there an existing law or policy for dealing with the problem?

TASK ONE (CONTINUED)

7. If there is a law or policy, is it adequate to solve the problem?

8. What disagreements, if any, are there in your community about this problem and the way it is being handled?

9. Who are the individuals, groups, or organizations with an interest in the problem?

10. For each individual, group, or organization you identify, answer the following questions. Use the back of this sheet for your answers.

- What is their position on the problem?
- Why are they interested?
- What are the advantages of their position?
- What are the disadvantages of their position?
- How are they trying to influence government to adopt their view?

11. What level of government or government agency is responsible for dealing with this problem? Why?

12. What is the government doing about the problem?
