

TEAM HIGHLAND

The Upstream Country – You control where the river begins

Your story:

Your country is developing fast. Hospitals need power. Schools need light. Your engineers have spent years designing a Mega-Dam on the Blue River – it would generate electricity for millions. Your character is Omar, a dam engineer whose own mother is in a hospital running on failing generators.

Highland says: “The river starts on our land. We have the sovereign right to use it”.

Your three core arguments are:

1. We need electricity for our hospitals, schools, and industries. This is a matter of national survival.
2. It is our sovereign right to build on our own land. No international law stops us from developing our territory.
3. We promise to release some water downstream – but the quantity and timing will be our decision.

Extra ammunition – Use it if you need it:

- Many countries have built dams on rivers that cross borders. Why should Highland be different?
- Lowland could invest in drought-resistant crops instead of depending entirely on our river.
- Without energy, our economy cannot grow. A poor and unstable Highland would affect the whole region.

PHRASES TO USE IN THE DEBATE

OPENING	We firmly believe that... From Highland’s perspective, this is a matter of...
ASSERTING	It is undeniable that... The people of Highland have the right to...
RESPONDING	I understand your concern, but... We respect Lowland’s needs. However, ...
CHALLENGING	How can you justify... Your argument ignores the fact that...

Before the debate, decide:

- Who gives the opening statement
- Who presents Argument 1
- Who presents Argument 2
- Who presents Argument 3
- Who will respond to the other team.

THINK ABOUT OMAR: He’s not a villain. He genuinely believes the dam will save lives. When you argue Highland’s case, argue it the way Omar would – with conviction, not aggression.

