

TEAM LOWLAND

The Downstream Country – Your survival depends on the river

Your story:

Your country is agricultural. Millions of families grow food using water from the Blue River – rice, wheat, vegetables. Your character is Sara, a farmer who has worked the same land for twenty years. If Highland builds the dam and controls the flow, her crops die. Her children have nothing.

Lowland says: “We have depended on this river for centuries. You cannot take it from us.”

Your three core arguments are:

1. Water is a human right – not a resource for one country to control. Our people will starve if the flow is blocked.
2. International law says you cannot take actions that seriously harm your neighbours. Building this dam breaks that law.
3. We have used this river for centuries. History and tradition give us equal rights to its water.

Extra ammunition – Use it if you need it:

- If our economy collapses, Lowland could become unstable – that affects Highland too.
- Highland can find other sources of energy (solar, wind). We cannot find another river.
- Highland’s ‘promise’ to release water is meaningless without a legally binding agreement.

PHRASES TO USE IN THE DEBATE

OPENING	We are deeply concerned about... From Lowland’s perspective, this threatens...
ASSERTING	It is a fundamental principle that... Under international law, you cannot ...
RESPONDING	That is <i>one</i> perspective, but... We acknowledge your need for energy. However, ...
CHALLENGING	What gives you the right to...? Have you considered what happens to Sara when...?

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 SARA: She’s not being dramatic. She’s describing a real threat to her family’s survival. When you argue Lowland’s case, argue it the way Sara would – with urgency, not despair.

