

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

PARTICIPATION –TOWN HALL MEETING

Directions: Imagine you are a resident of a small town outside Tokyo, Japan. You recently read an editorial in the newspaper that described a proposed law around the Pacific Ocean coast. In order to make your voice heard, you will be attending a town hall meeting to debate it.

1. You should take a position based on the **role that is assigned** to you.
2. Based on your role, decide whether or not that person would be **for or against** the proposed law.
3. Write a short statement explaining **what you will gain or lose** if the law is passed by the municipal government.
4. **Be prepared to engage in class discussion** in which you make your preference clear, according to your assigned role.

TOWN DESCRIPTION

Tokyo the largest city in Japan and is located on the Pacific Ocean coastline. Nearly 9 million people live there, but many more live in the surrounding metropolitan area where you live. You live in a suburb with its own local government. Many residents are connected with the tourists and retail sectors. Tourists love to come watch the boats and eat at seafood restaurants.

Many fisherman also make a living off of the Pacific Ocean. The surrounding area is primarily farmland. Two bed-and-breakfasts accommodate a limited number of overnight guests and gifts shops line the streets.

PROPOSED LAW

The town meeting agenda includes a **highly controversial** proposal to ban the use of manure in farming. A group of restaurant and hotel owners proposed the bill because they believe the smell during the certain months is driving tourists—and their business—away from the town.

Local farmers have doubled their use of manure in the past decade, adding more crops and animals to increase profit. In fact, nearby farms produce enough meat, milk, and eggs to feed more than half the people living in the nearby suburbs of Tokyo. Farmers are well organized on this issue.

But the manure also pollutes the ocean by introducing excessive amount of nutrients that reduce the water's oxygen levels and kill underwater grasses, which in turn kills many of the fish and hurts the entire food chain. Many fishermen have noted that their catches have declined in recent years.

1. **Who are you? (What is your role?)** _____

2. **What are 2 benefits associated with the manure?** _____

3. **What are 2 costs associated with the manure?** _____

4. **How will you vote on the proposal to ban manure?** Yes No

5. **How active were you in class discussion? (5=Highest)** 1 2 3 4 5

COMMUNITY MEMBER ROLES

DIRECTIONS: LISTEN FOR YOUR ASSIGNED ROLE AND WRITE IT ON YOUR PAPER.

1. LOCAL FARMER

He points out that the use of manure in farming has allowed his farm to grow more crops than ever before. These crops stock the supermarkets in Tokyo and across the northern suburbs. Even more important, though, is that farming is a family business that has spanned six generations in the area.

2. OCEAN COTTAGE BED AND BREAKFAST

The suburb has always been a popular tourist destination. It used to be impossible to get a room at Ocean Cottage B&B without booking a year in advance, but lately she has plenty of open beds. Fewer and fewer people attend the local festivals because so few are able to catch anything.

3. OWNER OF TANAKA'S GENERAL STORE

Tanaka operates a store in the suburb and a few others in the surrounding area. He receives all of his produce from the local farmers and employs over 45 people. He prides himself on being able to deliver cheap goods that are grown locally and has been able to lower his prices during the farming boom.

4. OWNER OF NAKAMURA'S BAYSIDE RESTAURANT

He complains that runoff from the manure is killing the marine life in the Pacific Ocean. Lately he has not been able to keep enough seafood on hand at the restaurant to make some of his world famous dishes. As a result he's seen his profits decline by 15% and has been forced to raise prices.

5. PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The province has approached him with the proposed law. If the law fails to pass, the state will seek to build a new water purification plant in the suburb. The plant will only reduce a fourth of the manure runoff but it will create 100 new jobs for a town with a 15% unemployment rate.

6. OWNER OF THE LOCAL FISHING COMPANY

The fishing company employs 50 people in the suburb. Fish yields have become smaller and smaller over the last five years. Another down year and he will be forced to sell his company to an international commercial fishing company that fishes all over the world—and may not hire local workers.