

Tips for Investigating Many-Sided issues

Goal • Use this sheet to help you organize your team.

Introduction

People respond to complex issues with many different points of view. The way you approach a complex issue—whether to present one or respond to one—is much the same as it is for a less complex issue. You need to approach such issues systematically, calmly, and with factual data or observations.

What to Do

- Practise responding to controversial issues by answering the questions below.

Questions

1. Read the views on the following issue: “Should the Canadian government invest in space research?”
After reading each statement, decide how someone who believed this would answer the above question, and explain why you think they would answer that way.

- a. Canadian scientists and technologists have a good reputation in the field.

- b. There are many needs for government spending, and money is very tight.

- c. Other kinds of research may have a greater need for financial support.

- d. If Canada does not support its experts, they will go elsewhere to do research.

2. List two other points of view on this issue.

3. Suggest an argument that each of the following people might make.

- a. a technologist working in space research

- b. a government official recommending research spending to Cabinet



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c. a medical researcher at a university

d. a scientific adviser to the genetically engineered food industry

4. a. Find and read an article that discusses various sides of a controversial issue such as genetically engineered food, nuclear generated power, or Internet use.

b. Use a chart similar to the one below to help you identify the various points of view.

Point of View	Supporting Evidence

c. Review the various points of view and decide whether or not there is one that you support. If there is, explain why you support that point of view. If there is not, explain why you have not yet developed a point of view on this particular issue.

