Role-play activity information

Sometimes, we don't know all the facts when we are engaging in a role-play activity. Use this as a guide to engage in the discussion.

Group 1:

Cut out each slip and give it to the student who will be playing the character.

Professor Sunny, the solar energy expert	• Explains how solar panels work and their benefits for clean energy production. • Provides facts about the decreasing costs of solar technology. • Demonstrates how solar energy can be stored for use during nighttime and cloudy days.
Engineer Windy, the wind power specialist	• Clarifies misconceptions about wind turbines and wildlife. • Shares data on the increasing efficiency of wind energy technology. • Explains how wind farms create new job opportunities in rural areas.
Dr. Factual, the climate scientist	• Presents clear evidence of human-caused climate change. • Explains the environmental benefits of transitioning to renewable energy. • Provides accurate information on the carbon footprint of different energy sources.

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Group 2:

Cut out each slip and give it to the student who will be playing the character.

Mr Coaly, the coal miner owner	• Claims renewable energy is unreliable and can't power a city 24/7. • Argues that coal jobs are essential for the local economy. • Spreads false information about wind turbines causing health problems.
Ms Guzzle, the gas station owner	• Insists that electric vehicles are too expensive for most families. • Claims that the electricity for EVs comes mostly from fossil fuels anyway. • Exaggerates the fire risks of solar panels on rooftops.
Dr. Skeptic, the climate change denier	• Argues that climate change is a natural cycle and not caused by humans. • Claims that renewable energy is more harmful to the environment than fossil fuels. • Spreads misconceptions about the inefficiency of renewable energy technologies.

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Group 1:

Key facts:

- Renewable energy accounted for 39.4% of Australia's total electricity supply in 2023.
- 5.9 GW of new renewable generation capacity was added in Australia in 2023.
- Solar and wind energy are now among the cheapest forms of energy production.
- Renewable energy can provide reliable power through advancements in energy storage and grid management, as well as the combination of multiple sources.
- The potential of renewable energy is vast and often underestimated.
- Renewable energy sources have much lower lifecycle emissions and environmental impacts compared to fossil fuels.

Debunked myths:

Myth: Renewables are unreliable.
Fact: Advancements in energy storage and grid management allow renewables to provide reliable power.

Myth: Renewable energy is too expensive.
Fact: The cost of renewable energy has significantly decreased, making it competitive with or cheaper than fossil fuels.

Myth: Renewables cannot meet energy demand.
Fact: With proper planning and investment, renewables can supply a significant portion of energy needs.

Myth: Renewable energy harms the environment.
Fact: Renewables have much lower environmental impacts compared to fossil fuels.

Myth: Renewables require too much land.
Fact: Land use can be minimized by integrating renewables into existing infrastructure and using low-value property.

Myth: Renewable energy leads to more blackouts.
Fact: Battery storage solutions can provide power during times of low production.

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Group 2:

This is a list of common misconceptions and claims that are spread by misinformation and disinformation.

Claim: Renewable energy is unreliable and can't power a city 24/7
Truth: This ignores advancements in energy storage and grid management.

Claim: Renewable energy is more expensive than traditional sources
Truth: This overlooks the significant cost reductions in recent years.

Claim: Wind turbines cause health problems
Truth: There is no scientific evidence supporting this claim.

Claim: Electric vehicles are too expensive for average families
Truth: This doesn't consider long-term savings and decreasing costs.

Claim: The electricity for EVs comes mostly from fossil fuels
Truth: This ignores the increasing share of renewables in the energy mix.

Claim: Solar panels produce significant waste
Truth: This doesn't mention that fossil fuel energy generates far more waste.

Claim: Climate change is a natural cycle and not caused by humans
Truth: This contradicts overwhelming scientific evidence.

Claim: Renewable energy is more harmful to the environment than fossil fuels
Truth: This ignores the lower lifecycle emissions of renewables.