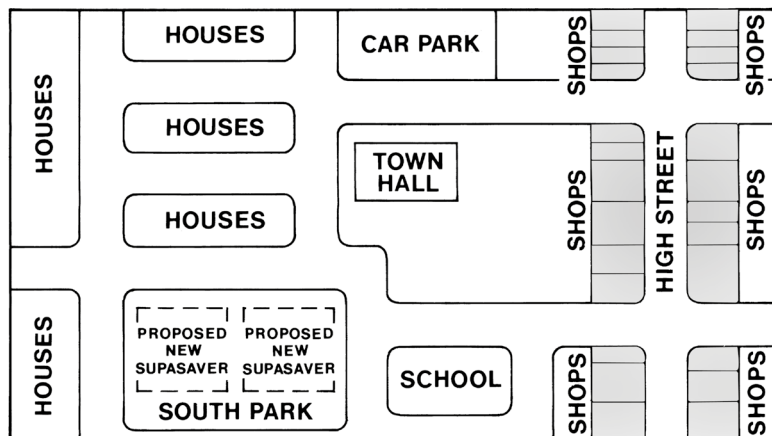


5A The Supasaver debate

Review of future forms

Supasaver development to be debated today

The future of Shelbyville's proposed new supermarket will be decided today during a meeting at the town hall. The plan to build a Supasaver in South Park has caused a great deal of discussion since it was announced two months ago. Supporters of the project claim that it will lead to more jobs and greater choice, while opponents say that South Park is important to the town



and that a supermarket will be bad for other businesses in the area.

The meeting will be chaired by the head of the town planning committee and representatives from both sides of the local community will also be attending. With supporters and opponents of the plan both feeling confident of victory, there is sure to be a lively debate in the town hall this afternoon.

Jack/Janet Charlton

You are the chairperson of the town planning committee. Your job is to control the meeting and organise a vote at the end. Everyone at the meeting is allowed to vote, including you. You are not sure how to vote at the moment. Before the debate begins, decide what the advantages and disadvantages might be:

- put other shops out of business (what kind of shops?)
- the local school (what effect would the supermarket have?)
- South Park is the only park in the town and is popular with local residents (why?)
- attract people (and lots of traffic) from nearby towns (benefits? problems?)
- the effect on jobs (in the short term? in the long term?)
- the effect on local residents (during the day? at night?)
- the supermarket will pay taxes (what could they be spent on?)
- any other advantages and disadvantages you can think of

Allow everyone to introduce themselves briefly. Make sure everyone takes turns in speaking.

Ray/Jane Wilson

You are head of the local council. Unemployment is high in Shelbyville and you have been trying to attract investment from outside the town for years. You are therefore in favour of the plan for the following reasons:

- more jobs (what kind?)
- attract people from nearby towns (benefit to Shelbyville?)
- convenient (who for?)
- Supasaver will pay local taxes (what could you spend the money on?)
- any other benefits you can think of

These are some arguments against the plan. Think how you can argue against them:

- near the school
- increased traffic and pollution
- South Park is the only park in the town and is popular with local residents
- other businesses in the town will suffer

Review of future forms

**Gordon/Susan Banks**

You are head of the Shelbyville Business Association, which represents 140 small businesses in the town. You own a bakery in the High Street, which might have to close if the supermarket is built. You are against the new supermarket for the following reasons:

- many shops will go out of business (what kind of shops?)
- create unemployment (how many people will lose their jobs?)
- destroy the local community (why?)
- local farmers will suffer (why?)
- extra traffic (what problems will it cause?)
- any other problems you can think of

These are some arguments in favour of the plan. Think how you can argue against them.

- create jobs
- attract people from neighbouring towns
- more choice for customers
- more convenient for local residents

Bobby/Sally Moore

You are a local politician. You are not sure how to vote at the moment; you will decide at the end of the debate. Before the debate begins, decide what the advantages and disadvantages might be:

- put other shops out of business (what kind of shops?)
- the local school (what effect would the supermarket have?)
- South Park is the only park in the town and is popular with local residents (why?)
- attract people (and lots of traffic) from nearby towns (benefits? problems?)
- the effect on jobs (in the short term? in the long term?)
- the effect on local residents (during the day? at night?)
- the supermarket will pay taxes (what could they be spent on?)
- any other advantages and disadvantages you can think of

Martin/Molly Peters

You are head of the local primary school. Your school has 300 children between the ages of five and eleven. You are against the new supermarket for the following reasons:

- too close to your school (why is this a problem?)
- the children do sports in South Park – it's the only green space in the town
- increased traffic – lorries and cars (what problems will this cause?)
- dangerous for children during construction (why?)
- the town would lose a beautiful park (what effect would this have?)
- any other problems you can think of

These are some arguments in favour of the plan. Think how you can argue against them.

- good for local economy
- create jobs
- better quality, cheaper food
- more convenient for local residents

Geoff/Rita Hurst

You are head of the Supasaver Corporation. You feel that a Supasaver store in Shelbyville would be extremely profitable for your company and for you personally. These are some points in favour of the plan:

- cheaper prices, better products, more choice (of what?)
- more jobs (what kind?)
- attract people from neighbouring towns (benefit to town?)
- pay local taxes (benefit to town?)
- any other benefits you can think of

These are some arguments against the plan. Think how you can argue against them.

- more traffic and pollution
- the effect on jobs in other shops and businesses
- South Park is popular with local residents
- very near a school

Instructions

***You will need:** one newspaper article per student; one set of role cards per group of six students*

- Give each student a copy of the newspaper article. Allow them time to read and check they have understood the text and the map. Pre-teach any difficult vocabulary.
- Distribute the role cards as follows: four students: omit the head of the school and the head of Supasaver; five students: omit the head of Supasaver; six students: give one role card to each student; seven students: add an extra politician; eight students: have two debates with four students (as above); nine students: have two debates, one with four students, one with five (as above); ten students: have two debates and omit the head of Supasaver; eleven students: have two debates, one with all the roles and one without the head of Supasaver.
- Allow students time to prepare what they are going to say. If possible, put students into 'same-role' groups to discuss their ideas.
- Arrange the class so that they are in a circle. If you have two debates, put them at opposite ends of the classroom. The chairperson begins the debate. Let the debate proceed uninterrupted. Ensure that the chairperson gives everybody a chance to speak. The teacher may make notes of mistakes for discussion after the activity.
- At the end of the debate, students take a vote on whether to allow the supermarket to be built.
- Students discuss the outcome with the whole class.