# Debate Topic: The Alberta Oil Sands

Background Reading:

<http://globalnews.ca/news/66591/pros-and-cons-alberta-oil-sands/> and

<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/categories/science-technology/energy-production/developing-the-alberta-oilsands/topic---developing-the-alberta-oilsands.html> (video and radio clips)

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| In opposition to the Alberta Oil Sands | In support of the Alberta Oil Sands |
| STAKEHOLDERS:   1. Environmentalists 2. Native Councilperson 3. Celebrity – Leonardo DiCaprio/Robert Redford/Neil Young | STAKEHOLDERS:   1. Oil Executive – Imperial Oil or Shell 2. Premier of Alberta 3. Oil Fields Worker |
| DEBATABLE TOPICS   * Increased greenhouse gas emissions * Environmental impact on forestry and threatened species * Loss of land of indigenous people | DEBATABLE TOPICS   * Job continuation and creation * Economic partnership with U.S. * Secure source of energy |

## OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUE

One student is responsible for providing an “overview” of the Alberta Oil Sands issue so that the students listening to the debate can understand the discussion that follows.

## FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE STUDENTS:

Each student must take on the role of one of the stakeholders. Balance the number of students who will be in support of and in opposition to the Alberta Oil Sands.

Each student is responsible for researching how Alberta Oil Sands affects someone in their “stakeholder position”. Take note that to prepare a debate, one must also anticipate counterarguments (points that someone might bring up to argue against you).

## STAKEHOLDER OPPOSED TO THE ALBERTA OIL SANDS

You must be prepared to argue against the supporters of the Alberta Oil Sands; research the supporting points and be prepared to “debunk” them.

## STAKEHOLDERS IN SUPPORT OF THE ALBERTA OIL SANDS

You must be prepared to argue against those who oppose the Alberta Oil Sands; research the opposing points and be prepared to “debunk” them.

## EACH STUDENT:

Hand in a report of your research using the graphic organizer below:

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| According to your particular role as a stakeholder, why do you support/oppose the Alberta Oil Sands? Provide evidence for your position. |
| Anticipate how another stakeholder might disagree with you. Provide evidence that could be used to weaken your position. |
| Anticipate how another stakeholder (different from above) might disagree with you. Provide evidence that could be used to weaken your position. |