# Debate Topic: Using GMOs to Improve Crop Yields in Areas Affected by Climate Change

Background Reading: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/green-revolution/>

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| In opposition to GM crops | In support of GM crops |
| STAKEHOLDERS:   1. Local villager with family 2. Cardinal 3. Regional politician | STAKEHOLDERS:   1. Regional aid worker 2. Local farmer 3. Biotechnologist/manufacturer |
| DEBATABLE TOPICS   * high cost of seeds * development of resistance * cross-breeding * long-term effects | DEBATABLE TOPICS   * increased crop yields * decrease in pest populations * less fertilizer and pesticides * lower environmental impact |

## OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUE

One student is responsible for providing an “overview” of GM crops 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 use of GM crops.

Each student is responsible for researching how the use of GM crops will affect 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 USE OF GM CROPS

You must be prepared to argue against the supporters of the use of GM crops; research the supporting points and be prepared to “debunk” them.

## STAKEHOLDERS IN SUPPORT OF THE USE OF GM CROPS

You must be prepared to argue against those who oppose the use of GM crops; 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 use of GM crops? 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. |