# Debate Topic: The XL Keystone Pipeline

Background Reading: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/faqs-keystone-xl-oil-pipeline-project-1.985186>

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| In opposition to the XL Keystone Pipeline | In support of the XL Keystone Pipeline |
| STAKEHOLDERS:   1. Environmentalists 2. Landowners 3. Railway workers | STAKEHOLDERS:   1. Provincial Government of Alberta 2. US Government 3. Unemployed labourers |
| DEBATABLE TOPICS   * Increased greenhouse gas emissions * Potential spills/leaks * Loss of current jobs | DEBATABLE TOPICS   * Job creation * Obtaining oil from a “friendly neighbor” * Tax Revenue |

## OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUE

One student is responsible for providing an “overview” of the XL Keystone Pipeline 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 XL Keystone Pipeline.

Each student is responsible for researching how the XL Keystone Pipeline 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 XL KEYSTONE PIPELINE

You must be prepared to argue against the supporters of the XL Keystone Pipeline; research the supporting points and be prepared to “debunk” them.

## STAKEHOLDERS IN SUPPORT OF THE XL KEYSTONE PIPELINE

You must be prepared to argue against those who oppose the XL Keystone Pipeline; 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 keystone pipeline? 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. |