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Activity 4: Controversial City Issues

“Not In My Backyard!” (NIMBY)

What does “NIMBY” mean?

NIMBY is an acronym for “Not In My Back Yard”!

The term is usually used to describe controversial situations where local citizens are opposed to government proposals to place new developments or services in their communities.

Municipal governments, for example, often seek new developments to help it operate more efficiently or to provide much needed or important services. The city may also need these developments to help it run smoothly or to create more jobs and a bigger tax base.

Examples of such issues include:

- Landfill sites
- Incinerators
- Power plants
- Jails
- Nightclub
- Casino
- Airports
- Expressways
- Police stations
- Animal shelters
- TTC yards

We are able to infer that many people do not want them in their neighborhood for many different reasons - hence, the term NIMBY: “Not In My Back Yard”!

ABC ACTIVITY: NIMBY ISSUES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Make an ABC list of as many NIMBY issues that you can think of and briefly explain why they are controversial.

	NIMBY	Explanation
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
H		
I		
J		
K		
L		
M		
N		
O		
P		
Q		
R		
S		
T		
U		
V		
W		
X		
Y		
Z		

ABC ACTIVITY (examples): NIMBY ISSUES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Make an ABC list of as many NIMBY issues that you can think of and briefly explain why they are controversial.

	NIMBY	Assumptions
A	Airport	Increased noise, traffic
B	Bicycle Lane	Increased traffic, pollution
C	Car Pool Lane	Increased traffic, pollution
D	Dump	Pollution, odour, health concerns
E	Electrical Power Lines	Lowers property value, health concerns
F	Fire Station	Increased noise
G	Group Homes	Lowers property value, increase in crime
H	Highways	Noise, Lower value of property
I	Incinerator	Pollution, health concerns
J	Jails	Safety, lowers property value
K	Kitchen for those in need (soup kitchen)	Safety concerns
L	Landfills	Pollution, odour, health concerns
M	Military Base	Traffic, safety concerns
N	Nuclear Plant	Pollution, health and safety concerns
O	Orphanage	Lowers property value
P	Parking Lot	Increased traffic
Q	Quarry	Traffic, pollution
R	Recycling Plant	Pollution, odour, health concerns
S	Shelter for Animals	Health concerns
T	Toxic Waste	Health concerns
U	Underground Subway Line	Construction, noise
V	Vehicle Licensing Centre	Increased traffic, noise
W	Waste Disposal Center	Health concerns
X	X-Rated Movie Theatre	Community standards and morals
Y	Yards for TTC Vehicles	Increased traffic, pollution
Z	Zoo	Animal rights concerns

K-W-H-L ACTIVITY

Choose one NIMBY issue from the ABC NIMBY list and complete the chart below:

NIMBY Issue: _____

K	W	H	L
<p>What I Know...</p>	<p>What I Want to Know...</p>	<p>How Will I Find Information? (Which resources will I use? Where will I find these resources??)</p>	<p>What I Learned...</p>

NIMBY PLACEMAT ACTIVITY

“How do I feel about the City of Toronto’s proposal to develop a new _____ in my neighbourhood?”

Instructions:

1. In groups of four, read the NIMBY issue proposal provided to your group.
2. Acting within your designated role, think of how you feel about the City of Toronto’s proposal for the new development in your neighbourhood.
3. Write down your position on the issue in your section of the placemat – be sure to provide supporting arguments and/or evidence.

Casino and Hotel Development

The City of Toronto proposes to construct a new 12-story casino and hotel building in your neighbourhood that will provide jobs to approximately 1200 people over 5 years.

Roles:

- Local Resident
- Local Business Owner
- Casino Developer
- An unemployed community member

Incinerator

The City of Toronto proposes to construct a 10,000 square meter incinerator in your neighbourhood which will convert garbage waste into useable energy.

Roles:

- Local Home Owner
- Local Business Owner
- Waste Management Employee
- Public Health Manager

Group Home for Youth with Addictions

The City of Toronto proposes to place a group home in your neighbourhood that will provide treatment for 20 youth struggling with addictions problems.

Roles:

- Local Resident
- Local Business Owner
- Youth Social Worker
- Parents of Youth In Need of Treatment

Rail Transit Extension

The City of Toronto proposes to construct an above ground rail transit extension through your neighbourhood to help citizens access the city and ease traffic congestion.

Roles:

- Local Home Owner
- Local Business Owner
- Transit Employee
- Public Transit Commuter

Landfill Site

The City of Toronto proposes to place a 100,000 square meter landfill site in your neighbourhood to save money from transporting garbage out of the city.

Roles:

- Local Home Owner
- Local Business Owner
- Waste Management Employee
- Environmentalist

Homeless Shelter

The City of Toronto proposes to place a homeless shelter in your neighbourhood that will provide housing for 120 men.

Roles:

- Local Resident
- Local Business Owner
- Social Worker
- Homeless Family

New Jail

The City of Toronto proposes to construct a new jail in your neighbourhood which will hold 150 youth who have come into conflict with the law.

Roles:

- Local Home Owner
- Local Business Owner
- Victim's Rights Worker
- Prisoner's Rights Worker

Bicycle Lanes

The City of Toronto proposes to convert all four lane roads in your community into two lane roads in order to provide citizens with bicycle lanes.

Roles:

- Local Resident
- Local Business Owner
- Cyclist
- Car Driver

















