

## Roles for the Mock City Council Meeting

You are the **MAYOR**. You will call the city council meeting to order and welcome the guests.

Tell the council and guests that the city council will make a very important decision at the end of the meeting. They will decide if their town will add more recyclable items to the recyclables they currently collect: aluminum cans and newspapers.

Say that you know that several guests would like to speak about this issue, and they are welcome to talk to the council. Tell them that the first guest will speak for adding items to the recyclable list, and the second guest will speak against adding items. Each side will continue taking turns until everyone who wants to say something has spoken.

After all of the guests have spoken, discuss the issue with the council members. When everyone on the council has had a chance to express an opinion, take a vote. You may state your ideas during the discussion and you may also vote.

You are a **City Council Member**. After the guests have spoken about adding recyclables to the city collection, you and the other council members will discuss ideas the guests mentioned. Take the side of someone who **does not want** to add to the recycling list. Use the ideas presented by the guests to explain your position. After discussion with the other council members, either keep your opinion or change your mind. If you change your mind, give a good reason for doing so.

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You are a **Guest Citizen**. You are **for** adding recyclables to the town's collection because you think that we must stop dumping a lot of trash in landfills. You are concerned that someday we will not have enough land to use for farms and towns.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You are **for** adding recyclables to the town's recyclables list because you think that we are adding too much stuff to our Earth. We should reuse things and cut down on items, not add to them.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You are **for** adding recyclables to the town's collection because you think that your town pays too much money to another town to use their landfill. If Shady Hollow's trash weighed less, your town would pay less to have our trash dumped at the landfill. The charge for dumping is by weight. If the trash load is heavy, the cost for dumping is high.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You are **for** adding recyclables to the town's collection because you think that the town can make money by selling the recyclable items.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You are **against** adding recyclables to the town's collection because you think that people do not want to go to the trouble it takes to sort items, find a place to store them, and take the time to haul them to the drop-off site.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You are also **against** adding to the town's recycling collection because of the trouble it takes to sort and separate the items. Tell people that you let the cans build up in you kitchen and then your garage. You keep putting off a trip to the drop-off site. Sometimes you just throw the cans in the trash to be carried off with the regular garbage.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You are **against** adding recyclables to the town's collection because you think that some recyclable items are dangerous and could harm children who might want to play with them. Glass can break and cut. Jagged edges of cans can also cut. People sometimes put off taking their items to the drop-off sites, and they pile up becoming a fire hazard or homes for unwanted insects and mice.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. After the other for and against guest citizens have spoken, present an idea to the council. Tell them that your cousin lives in Victoria, Texas, and told you that Victoria has drop-off centers for recyclables. They also have a Repeat Recyclers Club. When people bring their recyclables to the drop-off sites, they have their club card punched. After their fourth visit to the drop-off site, they can enter their card in a drawing. At the end of each month, five adult cards and five student cards are drawn for prizes. The adults get one month's free garbage pick-up, and the students get a recycling package. You think that Shady Hollow could have a recycling club too. It would encourage people to recycle.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You have also heard about the Repeat Recyclers Club in Victoria. Tell people that the students' recycling package includes items such as tee shirts, pens, pencils, and magnets.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. After the guest citizens have told the council about the city of Victoria's recycling club, tell them that you have heard about a good idea for recycling in Abilene, Texas. That town has a Teacher Recycle Locker. It is a drop-off place for recyclables that teachers can use in the classroom. Some of the items people bring for the teachers include cardboard rolls from paper towels and toilet paper, clean baby food jars with lids, large coffee cans, and other items teachers can use for arts and crafts projects. Tell the council that you think a lot of people would be willing to recycle items that would be useful in classrooms.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. After the guest citizens have presented their ideas about recycling in Victoria and Abilene, tell the council that you also have an idea for recycling. Maybe two or three times a year Shady Hollow could put on talent shows or plays. Instead of charging money for tickets, they could charge recyclables. The audience could bring stacks of office paper, or boxes of bottles, or whatever the city council will decide to add to the current recyclable list. It would be fun.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You have an idea for the council. They should look at an Internet site called Global Recycling Network. The address is [www.grn.com](http://www.grn.com). This site tells about companies that will buy recycled items. Maybe Shady Hollow could make some money. The citizens would be willing to bring their items to the drop-off site because it would be helping the town. Maybe you could even have a recyclers' appreciation party or something like that.

You are a **Guest Citizen**. You agree that Shady Hollow could make money by selling recyclable items, but the town has to also think about how much it costs to hire people to look at the items and make sure they are clean and ready to sell. Just be sure you won't spend more than you make.