**Mount Rainier Disaster Preparation Scenario**

Local authorities around Mount Rainier have become concerned about the risk of an eruption at Mount Rainier. They have assembled a task force made up of stakeholders from various levels of government and from the local communities. Their job is to put together a recommendation for disaster preparedness actions.

**Possible actions include:**

* Building lahar dams and channels on the streams and rivers that fallow from Mount Rainier. This action will cost at least $100 million to complete.
* Coordinated lahar warning system that would detect lahars high on the mountain and issue automated warnings.
  + The basic system would sound sirens and would cost at least $1 million dollars to install, and $1 million per year in maintenance.
  + A more sophisticated system would send warnings to cell phones and would automatically broadcast warnings on television, radio, Twitter and Facebook. This system would cost $20 million to install and at least $5 million in yearly upkeep.
* Establishment, marking and publication of evacuation routes, at a cost of about $1 million and $1 million per year for public service announcements about the hazards.
* Yearly volcano drills in schools and businesses, at a cost of about $5 million per year.

Members of the task force represent these organizations and people:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Washington Office of Emergency Services | Local Tea Party state representative |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) | Parent-Teachers Association |
| Real estate developers | Tourism association |
| Sierra Club and other environmentalists | Local Chamber of Commerce |

Each team of stakeholders will prepare their proposal to be heard by the whole task force. The proposal must include:

* What **actions** those stakeholders recommend
* **A plan to pay for the actions**. Possible sources of funding:
  + New taxes. Possibilities: increased property taxes on existing homes, extra tax on new homes, sales taxes, hotel tax, other taxes or fees
  + Cuts in other programs. Possibilities:
  + child care subsidies, business tax incentives, open space purchases, etc.
  + Funds from other levels of government (from State or Federal budgets)

Each team of stakeholders will prepare a **two-minute presentation of their proposal**. They will then listen to all the other proposals and take notes. The teams will then have **five** minutes to prepare a **one-minute rebuttal** that shows why the other proposals are bad ideas.