

Mock Council Meeting - Banning Plastic Grocery Bags

Topic: Should the City of Lethbridge prevent businesses from using plastic bags?

Students should identify several options both for and against this topic. These positions will be used in their arguments during the *mock Council Meeting*.

Examples:

Advantages of Banning Plastic Bags	Disadvantages of Banning Plastic Bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This could cut down on litter on the ground, in trees, ponds, lakes and rivers.• Plastic bags can jam recycling systems.• Many other cities ban plastic grocery bags: Montreal, Victoria.• Plastic bags take a very long time to decompose.• Animals can be injured/die if they get trapped in bags/eat the bag.• Plastic bags tear and break, often spilling groceries.• Re-usable bags are available, and only need to be washed every so often.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Straws and disposable cups are more of a problem.• This would be a difficult thing to enforce.• Businesses who make and use plastic bags will be impacted.• People forget to bring re-usable bags.• Plastic bags are often used for garbage pickup.• A small fee could be charged for each bag a person gets at the store.• Germs and bacteria can grow on the plastic bags.

After identifying their arguments and information, students are encouraged to complete the **Mock Council Prep Sheet**. This form allows students to outline their arguments and information for debate.



CITY OF
Lethbridge