

Debating the Issues

Read the Background Pages before attempting the activity	Curriculum Area: Social Studies Level 3-5	Strand Place and Environment Culture and Organisation Continuity and Change
Achievement Objectives	Understand how people view and use places differently. Understand how people participate individually and collectively in response to community challenges. Understand that events have causes and effects.	

Debate the issues from a variety of perspectives.

Role Play – Memorial Park

If you asked a number of people living in the Wellington Mount Cook/Pukeahu area what they thought of the Memorial Park project; you would probably receive a mixture of answers.

This could be a scenario such as a council meeting or community gathering.

Roles

Councillors and Local Politicians: You have a responsibility to answer the concerns of local citizens who are worried about how the construction of Memorial Park will affect them. You are aware that a number of factors have been considered in planning and designing Memorial Park.

Cyclists: You are in favour of the project because it will allow safer cycle paths in this area.

Geologists and Geotechnical Engineers: You have been involved in assessing land stability and designing the tunnel so it will be earthquake resilient. You understand the need to give clear explanations to the public.

Mount Cook School Student: You are concerned that the construction of Memorial Park will cause noise and dust problems.

Construction Site Manager: You are involved in monitoring environmental impacts and noise levels on site and recognise the need to reduce impacts on local residents and businesses.

Environmentalist: You are concerned with how much money is being spent on the project and the use of resources to complete the project.

War Historian: You are pleased that the project is going ahead as it will increase public awareness and knowledge of New Zealand's involvement in the First World War.

Business Representative: You are concerned about the disrupted access to local businesses due to the closure of certain roads in the area.

Consider using other ways of analysing these perspectives e.g. write a speech or letter, draw a cartoon, sketch a caricature of roles, develop a poster, video or pod cast etc.

- 📺 Video the debate
- 📺 Swap roles and complete a debrief so students can discuss what they have learnt
- 📺 Send your ideas and/or student work in to display with full acknowledgement on our LEARNZ website, contact shelley.hersey@core-ed.org