

## Character Cards – Our Point of View: Is it okay to eat meat?

Character cards with suggestions to what the different groups can argue. Feel free to add more opinions, or make the opinions more radical. When the role-play is done, have a discussion with the class if they agree personally.



### The average consumers

- Meat tastes good, it's an important part of our diet.
- Humans have always eaten meat – from we were hunters to now. It is in our nature to eat meat.
- Alternatives to meat are more expensive and complicated to cook, they are not available to everyone in our society.
- Most of my favorite dishes include meat, why should I stop eating them?
- The traditional dishes of my culture include meat. Not eating meat would erase a central part of my culture.
- Meat is a healthy way to get the proteins we need.
- Of course, we wouldn't oppose responsible production, but we would oppose higher prices on our food. The same goes for animal welfare.
- One more person eating meat, or not, will not make any difference. The responsibility lies with the producers of meat and the politicians.



### The conventional meat-producing farmers

- Meat production is an old and traditional occupation, and an important part of our culture, that we must preserve.
- Meat production is a big source of employment for our country, and globally.
- Ending/decreasing meat production would be detrimental to the individual farmers that would lose everything.
- Ending/decreasing meat production would hurt our economy.
- We need to produce so we can export and thereby stand strong in the global market.
- Meat is a healthy and necessary part of our diets.
- Eating less meat doesn't mean less pollution – we also eat meat to avoid wasting parts of the animal that we use anyways for milk, eggs, leathers for bags, clothing, furniture, boots, etc.



### The climate activists

- Agriculture in general and meat production in particular are some of the very biggest causes of pollution.
- Meat-production emits more greenhouse gasses than all cars, trucks, airplanes, ships and all other methods of transportation – *combined!*
- A cow produces 250-500 liters of methane gas a day! To put that in comparison, a car's gas tank "only" holds 60 liters.
- Pollution and climate changes are global issues, and global responsibilities.
- 450 g. of beef takes 1670 liters to produce! Why are we telling people to take shorter showers, when they could just eat one less steak a week?
- We are not necessarily entirely opposed to eating meat, but we believe that our meat consumption must be sustainable, which it isn't today. Sustainable meat production may cost more, short-term, but continuing to pollute as we do today will cost us much more.
- Not all meats pollute equally – eat meats that pollute less (light meats).

### **Vegans**

- We can't wait for the politicians and meat producers to take responsibility; we must take it ourselves.
- We know how harmful to the environment meat production is, and we believe we have a responsibility to not contribute to this pollution.
- The meat producers don't want to waste money – the lower the demand for meat, the less they will produce.
- If you don't need to kill an animal to be full, why would you?
- Meat-alternatives are actually healthier – people in the Western world have more illnesses caused by eating too much protein/meat, rather than not enough. The proteins you need are available in vegetables.
- It is estimated that the crops that are used just to feed livestock (mainly the animals that are to become meat for humans to eat) could feed 4 billion people instead. Why should people go hungry if this is the case?



### **Politicians**

- The economy of our country needs a strong agricultural sector
- Agriculture is an old and traditional occupation that we wish to preserve in our country
- Agriculture and meat-production create a lot of employment in our economy
- The need to produce meat goes beyond our own consumption – it is part of our export as well
- The export of meat is important on the global market
- People won't just stop eating meat – and as long as people are eating meat, we want meat to be produced in our own country; this is what is best for our economy and our environment
- Shorter transportation for the meats is better for the environment
- Of course our production has to be as responsible as possible, but we still need to be able to compete on the global marketplace.



### **An NGO advocating animals' rights**

- If we are to produce meat, it has to be done responsibly with respect for the animals and our planet.
- All production of meats should change from conventional production to organic production.
- We need rigid minimum requirements for e.g. the amount of space each animal has, usage of medication, length of transportation, etc. And we need to be able to punish farmers/companies who do not comply.
- Animals are living beings like you and me. They feel physical pain and stress – why hurt and kill them if you don't need to?
- Being ethical is more important than money.
- Ethics are more important than the habits of consumers.
- It's beyond the welfare of animals – it's the wellbeing of our planet and all of us.