

### Round 1: Area II, section B

In January, new laws regulating PFAS – the “forever chemicals” that can build up in the environment and the human body – went into effect in Minnesota. The state banned the sale of products made with PFAS in categories ranging from pots and pans to cosmetics, carpets and furniture. The law has sparked outcry among businesses, including cookware manufacturers.

As members of an advocacy group representing Minnesota business and industry, you are considering how to respond to the PFAS ban. Can a case be made that environmental regulations hurt businesses? Are there solutions that would help prevent harm to both businesses and consumers?

Draft a statement on what should be done about environmental regulations in Minnesota, that you can take to state legislators. In your statement, use evidence to support your positions.

### Round 2: Area I, section C

At a January rally, President Donald Trump called for an end to federal taxes on tips. Several members of Congress have also shown support for the idea, with Nevada senators co-sponsoring a bill called the No Tax on Tips Act. If the proposal becomes law, it could affect about 4 million people in the U.S. who rely on tips as part of their income.

As members of the workforce, you are trying to decide whether you support this proposal. Research and discuss the possible impacts, both positive and negative, to ending taxes on tips. Draft a brief statement to your legislators explaining why you support or oppose measures like the No Tax on Tips Act.

### Round 3: Area II, sections A & E

In recent years, laws aimed at protecting employees’ work-life balance have attracted attention around the world. One example was Australia’s “right to disconnect” law, which protects workers who do not answer work calls or emails after normal working hours. A similar “right to disconnect” bill was proposed in California’s state legislature, but did not pass.

As members of an advocacy group focused on improving work conditions in the U.S., you wonder what comes next in the fight for better work-life balance. Can you still make a case for the right to disconnect in the U.S.?

As a group, brainstorm and prioritize possible strategies to enhance work-life balance for American workers. Use research and real-world examples to support your group’s top three strategic goals.

### Final Round: Area I, section A; Area II, sections C & E

A January survey by the Pew Research Center found that 46% of people who currently work from home say they’d be unlikely to stay in their jobs if they can’t work remotely. That’s concerning news for the CEO of BizCorp, a company with about 500 employees in several Midwest states. BizCorp is in the process of ending the remote work policies the company put in place in response to the COVID pandemic.

The BizCorp CEO has tasked your working group with looking for ways to retain employees as the company returns to the office. Research and evaluate possible strategies to attract people back to in-person work, and give the reasoning for your top three options.