

# Talking Trash Host

## Role:

You host the talk show “Talking Trash” and interview your guests about waste in their era. You want to help viewers get a good sense of the experience and perspectives of each guest.

## Questions to Consider:

These questions are examples of questions that could help tell the story of garbage in your era. Work with your team to decide which questions are most relevant, or come up with new ones!

- Why is your role challenging?
- What is difficult about making rules in your era?
- What do you think is the best option for managing waste during this time in history?
- What kind of waste do you dispose of?
- Whose responsibility is it to manage waste?
- How concerned are you about waste? What worries do you have?
- How does waste factor in to your daily life?

# **Ancient Greece + Rome**

## **City Leader and Lawmaker**

### **Role:**

You make rules and decisions to keep the streets clean and manage waste.

### **Perspective:**

Clean streets are important to keep odors, diseases, and pests under control. You also want things to look nice, and you hope to remain popular with the citizens of the city.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why is this role challenging?**
- **What is difficult about making rules about waste in a big, ancient city?**
- **What do you think is the best option for managing waste during this time in history?**

# **Ancient Greece + Rome**

## **Wealthy Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in a large, beautiful home and have staff to manage any waste-related work.

### **Perspective:**

Waste - yuck! You avoid dealing with it directly and instead expect others to be responsible for managing it. You expect your surroundings to be clean and are eager to keep consuming. The waste is someone else's problem!

### **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think the streets are so dirty?
- Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?
- What kinds of waste do you generate?
- What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?
- What worries you about waste?

# **Ancient Greece + Rome**

## **Poor Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in a crowded area where waste piles up quickly.

### **Perspective:**

You're used to waste - it is part of your everyday life, and it is all around you. You know the wealthy citizens don't come to your streets, and you suspect the leaders and lawmakers are not worried about waste in your area.

### **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think the streets are so dirty?
- Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?
- What kinds of waste do you generate?
- What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?
- What worries you about waste?

# **Ancient Greece + Rome**

## **Average Citizen, Small Town**

### **Role:**

You live in a small rural town, far from the city, where most of your waste is organic -- that means it is mostly plant- or animal-based.

### **Perspective:**

Waste doesn't seem like a big issue in your town. There aren't many citizens, and most of them reuse materials over and over because they have few options for shopping and trading.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think your town is cleaner than big cities?**
- **Why is most of your waste plant- or animal-based?**
- **Why do you and the other citizens reuse materials so often?**
- **What kinds of waste do you dispose of on a normal day, and what do you do with it?**

# **Ancient Greece + Rome**

## **Average Citizen, Big City**

### **Role:**

You live in fairly busy area of a big city.

### **Perspective:**

Waste is everywhere, and it is hard to figure out where to put it. Everywhere you look, there are buildings and people. Travel is difficult, so you rarely leave your part of town.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think there is so much waste in the streets?**
- **Why do you put your daily waste in the streets?**
- **Do you think waste is a problem? Why or why not?**
- **Who should be in charge of keeping the streets clean?**

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- Why is your role challenging?
- What is difficult about making rules in your era?
- What do you think is the best option for managing waste during this time in history?
- What kind of waste do you dispose of?
- Whose responsibility is it to manage waste?
- How concerned are you about waste? What worries do you have?
- How does waste factor in to your daily life?

# **Medieval Times**

## **City Leader and Lawmaker**

### **Role:**

You make rules and decisions to keep the streets clean, manage waste, and reduce disease.

### **Perspective:**

You suspect that waste causes problems like disease. You also want things to look nice, and you hope to remain popular with the citizens of the city.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why is this role challenging?**
- **What is difficult about making rules about waste in a big, medieval city?**
- **What do you think is the best option for managing waste during this time in history?**



# **Medieval Times**

## **Wealthy Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in a fairly well-maintained home and have staff to manage any waste-related work.

### **Perspective:**

Waste - yuck! You avoid dealing with it directly and instead expect others to be responsible for managing it. Waste is someone else's problem! But you do notice the smells...

### **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think the streets are so dirty?
- Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?
- What kinds of waste do you generate?
- What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?
- What worries you about waste?

# **Medieval Times**

## **Poor Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in a crowded area where waste piles up quickly and life is hard.

### **Perspective:**

You deal with waste daily and worry that the conditions lead to sickness. However, day-to-day life is a hard distraction, so waste does not get much of your attention. The river is a convenient way to get rid of waste so it does not stay near your home.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think the streets are so dirty?**
- **Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?**
- **What kinds of waste do you generate?**
- **What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?**
- **What worries you about waste?**

# **Medieval Times**

## **Average Citizen, Small Town**

### **Role:**

You live in a small rural town, far from the city, where most of your waste is organic -- that means it is mostly plant- or animal-based.

### **Perspective:**

Waste doesn't seem like a big issue in your town. There aren't many citizens, and most of them reuse materials over and over because they have few options for shopping and trading.

### **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think your town is cleaner than big cities?
- Why is most of your waste plant- or animal-based?
- Why do you and the other citizens reuse materials so often?
- What kinds of waste do you dispose of on a normal day, and what do you do with it?

# **Medieval Times**

## **Average Citizen, Big City**

### **Role:**

You live in fairly busy area of a big city, like Paris or London.

### **Perspective:**

Waste is everywhere, and it is hard to figure out where to put it. Everywhere you look, there are buildings and people. Travel is difficult, so you rarely leave your part of town. And why would you need to? There are markets and street vendors around you so there is no need to leave!

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think there is so much waste in the streets?**
- **Why do you put your daily waste in the streets?**
- **Do you think waste is a problem? Why or why not?**
- **Who should be in charge of keeping the streets clean?**

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- Why is your role challenging?
- What is difficult about making rules in your era?
- What do you think is the best option for managing waste during this time in history?
- What kind of waste do you dispose of?
- Whose responsibility is it to manage waste?
- How concerned are you about waste? What worries do you have?
- How does waste factor in to your daily life?

# **Industrial Revolution**

## **City Leader and Lawmaker**

### **Role:**

You make rules and decisions to improve waste disposal in your rapidly growing city.

### **Perspective:**

Factories and people are producing more waste than ever, and its overwhelming the system.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why is this role challenging?**
- **What is the growing population challenging when it comes to managing waste?**
- **As people have more options of materials to buy, why are they reusing less?**
- **What do you think is the best option for managing waste during this time in history?**

# **Industrial Revolution**

## **Wealthy Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in a fairly well-maintained home and have staff to manage any waste-related work.

### **Perspective:**

You care about clean surroundings, but you don't really notice the problems others may face in poorer parts of town. You hire people to take waste away from your home and neighborhood.

### **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think streets are dirtier in other parts of town?
- Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?
- What kinds of waste do you generate?
- What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?
- What worries you about waste?

# **Industrial Revolution**

## **Poor Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in a crowded area near many new factories.

### **Perspective:**

Waste and polluted air make your neighborhood feel dirty and unhealthy.

### **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think the streets are so dirty?
- Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?
- What do you think of the factories in the area?
- What kinds of waste do you generate?
- What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?
- What worries you about waste?



# **Industrial Revolution**

## **Average Citizen, Big City**

### **Role:**

You live in fairly busy area of a big city, like Pittsburgh.

### **Perspective:**

Waste is everywhere, and it is hard to figure out where to put it. Everywhere you look, there are buildings and people. The air seems to be getting dirtier too. There are some options for getting waste removed from the streets and neighborhoods, but there doesn't seem to be a great system yet.

### **Talking Points:**

- Do you think waste is a problem? Why or why not?
- Is waste something you think about every day?
- Who should be in charge of keeping the streets clean?

# **Industrial Revolution**

## **Average Citizen, Small Town**

### **Role:**

You live in a small rural town, where organized methods of dealing with waste are just getting started.

### **Perspective:**

Waste seems like a pretty new problem, and it doesn't seem like too big of it is a big deal. The river water seems to be getting dirtier and dirtier.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think your town is cleaner than big cities?**
- **Why is your river water not as clean as it used to be?**
- **What kinds of waste do you dispose of on a normal day, and what do you do with it?**

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- Whose responsibility is it to manage waste?
- How concerned are you about waste? What worries do you have?
- How does waste factor in to your daily life?

# **Early 20th Century City Leader and Lawmaker**

## **Role:**

You make rules and decisions to improve waste disposal in your rapidly growing city.

## **Perspective:**

There are more options for disposing of waste, like landfills and incinerators, but there is also more waste being produced!

## **Talking Points:**

- **Why is this role challenging?**
- **What is the growing population challenging when it comes to managing waste?**
- **As people have more options of materials to buy, why are they reusing less?**
- **What do you think is the best option for managing waste during this time in history?**

# **Early 20th Century Wealthy Citizen**

## **Role:**

You live in a well-maintained home and have your waste collected and taken from your home.

## **Perspective:**

You want a clean city and support the development of new methods to manage garbage. You like that there are more products to buy, use, and throw away!

## **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think streets are dirtier in other parts of town?
- Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?
- What kinds of waste do you generate?
- What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?
- What worries you about waste?

# **Early 20th Century**

## **Poor Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in a crowded area where waste collection is not reliable.

### **Perspective:**

Your neighborhood isn't filthy, but it is still common to see piles of garbage, and you often see rats and other pests. You think unclean conditions probably lead to sickness, and that makes you worry. You reuse items when you can and try not to throw things away before they have lost their usefulness.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think the streets are dirty?**
- **Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?**
- **What kinds of waste do you generate?**
- **What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?**
- **What worries you about waste?**

# **Early 20th Century Average Citizen, Small Town**

## **Role:**

You live in a small rural town, where organized methods of dealing with waste are not developing as quickly as in the big city.

## **Perspective:**

Waste doesn't seem like a big deal - you can just burn it in your own backyard. The river water seems to be getting dirtier and dirtier.

## **Talking Points:**

- Why do you think your town is cleaner than big cities?
- Why is your river water not as clean as it used to be?
- What kinds of waste do you dispose of on a normal day, and what do you do with it?

# **Early 20th Century**

## **Average Citizen, Big City**

### **Role:**

You live in fairly busy area of a big city, like Chicago.

### **Perspective:**

Waste collection is getting better, but garbage still collects in the streets. Everywhere you look, there are buildings and people. The air seems to be getting dirtier too. You and your neighbors are all working to recycle more for the war efforts.

### **Talking Points:**

- Do you think waste is a problem? Why or why not?
- Is waste something you think about every day?
- Who should be in charge of keeping the streets clean?



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- How does waste factor in to your daily life?

# 1950s-1970s

## City Leader and Lawmaker

### Role:

You make rules and decisions to keep the streets clean and manage waste in a city struggling with a growing population and increased garbage generation.

### Perspective:

Garbage collection is getting easier and more common, and the garbage has a place to go - to dumps and incinerators. Your concern for the environment is growing because dumps are open to the air and attract pests, and there aren't any steps being taken to protect the groundwater. Incinerators release a lot of pollution into the air.

### Talking Points:

- Why is this role challenging?
- While this system is better than dumping garbage loose into the streets, it is far from perfect. What changes do you hope will happen over time?

# **1950s-1970s**

## **Wealthy Citizen**

### **Role:**

You live in the suburbs and make a LOT of garbage.

### **Perspective:**

You love the convenience of disposable materials and packaging. Keeping a tidy home is much easier when you can just throw most things away after you've used them once! And you love that a garbage truck comes by your home to take it all away. Its a perfect system!

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think disposable items are so great?**
- **Why aren't you worried about how much you are throwing away?**
- **What do you think of garbage trucks picking up material at your home and taking it to a dump?**

# 1950s-1970s

## Poor Citizen

### Role:

You live in a crowded area with limited access to modern waste disposal systems, like garbage trucks picking material up at your house.

### Perspective:

You're used to waste - it is part of your everyday life, and it is all around you. You know the wealthy citizens don't come to your streets, and you suspect the leaders and lawmakers are not worried about waste in your area.

### Talking Points:

- Why do you think the streets are so dirty?
- Who do you think should be responsible for keeping things clean?
- What kinds of waste do you generate?
- What do you think leaders and lawmakers should do?
- What worries you about waste?

# **1950s-1970s**

## **Average Citizen, Big City**

### **Role:**

You live in fairly busy area of a big city that is growing quickly.

### **Perspective:**

Waste is manageable and garbage collection systems help, but pollution and waste are still issues.

### **Talking Points:**

- Do you think waste is a problem? Why or why not?
- Is waste something you think about every day?
- Who is most responsible for waste generation and proper management?

# **1950s-1970s**

## **Average Citizen, Small Town**

### **Role:**

You live in a small rural town, where organized methods of dealing with waste are slow to catch on.

### **Perspective:**

Waste seems manageable, but many times you manage it yourself with methods like burning garbage in a metal barrel in your yard. Disposable products and plastics are more and more common.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Why do you think your town is cleaner than big cities?**
- **Why do you think garbage services are happening in bigger cities, while your town is slower to catch up?**
- **What kinds of waste do you dispose of on a normal day, and what do you do with it?**