

Map the Issue

Case Material: The Wars of the West: regional, national, and international wrangling over the water from the Colorado River

In the following table, identify one specific issue that affects your stakeholder group. In the first column, capture in writing in a full sentence the specific issue—no shorthand phrases or abbreviated thinking.

In the second column, state the position of your stakeholder group—the position you would be prepared to defend as right and proper. Your position is likely to entail some action, establish some justifiable use of the resource, or stake out your territory in the water dispute.

In the third column, rationalize your position, your proposed action, or your central claim. Detail your logic: Why is your position warranted? What justifies your holding that perspective or taking that action or reading the law in the way you do?

In the last column, identify the sources of support for holding your position. Support might take the form of a philosophical or ethical principle, it might reflect past water use and established rights, it might reflect social needs, it might reflect the costs and benefits of a given action or ruling.

In each cell, use full, well formed sentences, so that when read as a whole, this table presents a coherent, compelling argument for a given position, by a given group, based on explicit logic, with strong and specific support.

Specific problem or issue	Stakeholder Response or position	Rationale or logical argument behind response	Supporting data, precedents, principles, rights, responsibilities