Objective: Engage students in a **role-playing activity** where they represent different stakeholders/ “players” in a community meeting to discuss the train derailment incident and its potential impacts on residents and the environment. As an added challenge, students will also personify the chemicals involved in the derailment. This activity can encourage students to explore a variety of perspectives and consider a few of the complexities of real-world scenarios.

(Suggested) Stakeholders and Basic Roles: (Can paste these on cards and hand out to students so they can take additional notes from the article.) Students just need to focus on and research a single role.

1. **Residents:** Represent the local residents who were evacuated from the affected area. They are concerned about their health and safety and want to understand the potential risks associated with the toxic gases released during the derailment.

2. **Local Officials:** Represent the town's mayor, city council members, and other local authorities responsible for managing the emergency response. They are tasked with ensuring public safety and providing accurate information to residents.

3. **Environmental Experts:** Represent experts from environmental organizations or the EPA. They have knowledge about the chemicals released during the derailment and the potential environmental impacts.

4. **EPA Representatives:** Represent officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who are monitoring air and water quality in the affected area. They provide updates on the safety levels and any precautionary measures.

5. **Medical Professionals:** Represent doctors and health experts who can explain the potential health risks associated with exposure to toxic gases and address residents' health concerns.

6. **Vinyl Chloride (Chemical Player):** Personify vinyl chloride, the toxic chemical released during the derailment. It can communicate its properties, risks, and potential effects on human health and the environment.

7. **Phosgene (Chemical Player)**: Personify phosgene, another toxic gas released during the controlled burn. It can communicate its properties, risks, and potential effects on human health and the environment.

Question Prompts for those who need an additional nudge when researching their role:

Residents:

- How do you feel about the presence of vinyl chloride and phosgene in your neighborhood?
- What are your main concerns about potential health risks?
- What questions do you have for the EPA and medical professionals about how to protect yourself from exposure?

Local Officials:

- How will you ensure the safety of residents during the evacuation and post-incident phases with the presence of toxic chemicals?
- How do you plan to communicate accurate information to the public about the chemicals' risks and safety measures?
- What precautions will you take to prevent further chemical releases and ensure the community's well-being?

Environmental Experts:

- How do you assess the potential environmental impacts of vinyl chloride and phosgene in the air and water?
- What measures can the community take to mitigate the effects of these chemicals on the environment?
- How can you collaborate with other stakeholders to address both immediate and long-term environmental concerns?

EPA Representatives:

- What data are you collecting to monitor air and water quality with the presence of vinyl chloride and phosgene?
- How do you determine safe levels of these chemicals for the community?
- What actions will you take to protect residents and the environment from further harm?

Medical Professionals:

- What health risks are associated with exposure to vinyl chloride and phosgene?
- How can residents seek medical support and assistance if they suspect exposure?
- What guidance can you provide to residents to protect themselves from potential health hazards?

Vinyl Chloride (Chemical Player):

- Describe your properties and characteristics as a toxic gas.
- Explain the risks and potential effects of exposure on human health and the environment.
- Address any concerns or questions residents may have about your presence.

Phosgene (Chemical Player):

- Describe your properties and characteristics as a highly toxic gas.
- Explain the risks and potential effects of exposure on human health and the environment.
- Address any concerns or questions residents may have about your presence.