Assignment Sheet for Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Role 6

Topic: Peer-to-peer file sharing
Role: Cutting-edge Technology Company

The issue is...

Peer-to peer technology such as that used at Napster or YouTube makes it easy for users to share files such as music or video online. Some people think this is harmless—a good way to share a favorite song or show with a friend. Others think sharing files in this way causes harm to the artists who originally produced the work being shared because people can listen to or watch their work without paying for it.

The question is...

Should people be allowed to share music or video files online?

Research

Use the internet to research the topic. The following keywords may be useful in your search:

- Peer to Peer technology
- file sharing
- copyright law
- illegal technology

As you review the information you find, be sure to note the date each article was written. Identify who the author is and what perspective he or she might have on the topic.

Take a Stand

1. Would allowing people to share music or video files online likely help or hurt a person in your role? In what way?

2. Would a person in your role likely be for or against allowing music or video files to be shared online? Why?

Persuade Others

Imagine that Congress is debating a new law that would make sharing music and video files online legal, and you are speaking before Congress to persuade them to vote the way a person in your role would likely want them to vote. Use the Persuasion Map <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/persuasion_map/> to plan your

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argument for or against the proposed law. Then present your argument to the class. Before you begin, you might want to think about the following:

Think About:

1. What do you want your audience to do after it hears your argument?

2. What are the strongest points you could make about this topic to persuade someone to see it from your point of view? What makes these arguments strong?

3. What facts or scenarios did you read about in your research that might help convince someone to agree with your point of view?

The rules:

- Your group must speak for no less than three minutes and no more than five minutes.

- Every person in your group must speak.

- You must turn in your answers to the questions in the Take a Stand and Think About sections, your completed Persuasion Map, and a completed Persuasion Meter.

Your oral argument will be evaluated **on:**

- how well your argument is defended with specific examples or scenarios.

- how well your argument matches your assigned role.

- how well you present the information, including eye contact with your audience, good rate of speed for your voice, and the clarity of your speech.

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