



# Front Page – OpEd 3 (Short Version Part 3)

(Resource ID: 367)

**Samantha Prior**

samantha.prior(at)ul.ie

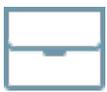
This teaching resource is allocated to following University:

**UL – University of Limerick**

Institution:

**University of Limerick**

<http://www.sustainicum.at/en/modules/view/367.Front-Page-OpEd-3-Short-Version-Part-3>



**Group work**



**11 to 30  
students**



**Up to 3 lecture  
units**



**English, Shqip**

The teaching resource outline Front Page – Op Ed (Short Version – part 1, 2, and 3) describes the draft of a teaching resource consisting of 3 parts, that has been developed to teach students about political parties and the limitations that politicians face in real life. These teaching resources will incorporate Mental Mapping, Debating, a Focus Group, a Discussion and Reflection. The set describes three independent teaching resources, which are designed to be completed one after another (but not necessarily), these include: 1. Mental Maps – Ideal Political Party 2. Debate – what does the Ideal Political Party look like? 3. Focus Group with Political Parties The outline " Front Page – Op Ed (Short Version Part 1, 2, 3)" is based (and slightly modified) on the Teaching Resource, Front

Page –OpEd from UET. The original teaching resource was split into several parts to make it easier to introduce innovative teaching methods at different points in the lectures. There is no need to complete all parts.

### **Part 3 – Focus Group with Political Parties**

Linking to part 2, a focus group consisting of panel members from various political parties will be set up. Each student will have the opportunity to interview each of the stakeholders about their political parties and their beliefs around key issues affecting the students. After speaking to the political parties, the students will be asked to look at the mental maps they made in part 1 and to adjust them according to their new found knowledge from the stakeholders. Each student will be asked to reflect and write about their focus group experience and the winning article will be published in the Opinion Editorial.

#### **Main Text:**

Politics is a topic that is relevant to everyone and effects everyone in different ways. This teaching resource aims to get the perspectives of our young people on politics both locally and globally, and gives them the opportunity to identify what they feel are the most important issues that the political parties should be working for.

The students will use both their previous knowledge and knowledge learned in lectures and put these skills learned into practice. They will be given the opportunity to analyse the political parties attitudes' towards policy making and compare to the ideals of their own political party. They will also have the opportunity to see the limitations that are faced by politicians everyday, and begin to realise that it is not possible to please everyone in politics.

It is also important to note that everyone in the lectures will have different views on political parties and it is the role of the lecturer to ensure that the group dynamics are kept at ease and to emphasise that it is a task.



## Mini-project

### Integration of Social Stakeholders

Stakeholders (members of political parties) are invited to participate in the focus group and this allows students to explore the real life roles of the stakeholders (politicians, NGOs, political activists, lawyers) in relation to current political events.

### Strength

- Students learn to work in a team
- Students learn to solve real-life relevant problems
- Students practice and develop skills of listening, discussion and persuasion
- It encourages greater understanding taking the focus off rote learning
- Develops lifelong learning skills

### Weakness

- Group dynamics issues may compromise the effectiveness of the method.
- It may be difficult to get members of political parties to attend the focus group

### Learning Outcomes

- Prepare a set of key questions
- Participate in the focus group
- Interview the politicians in the focus group
- Solve the problem of non-sustainable cultivation methods
- Analyse each of the political parties and their values
- Reflect on the interview and submit this reflection as an assignment
- Appreciate the importance of politics and the role it plays in forming society

### Relevance for Sustainability

The students learn skills that allow them to think critically, to foster imagination and discuss controversial issues. Not to rote learn but use logic and this is essential to achieve sustainable knowledge.

## Related Teaching Resources

No specific previous knowledge / related resources required

## Preparation Efforts

Medium

## Preparation Efforts Description

Arrangement of visits by political parties

## Access

Free

## Assessment

Submission of the assignment on the focus group interviews

## Credit/Certification Description

Credit for the submission of the assignment on the focus group interviews

## Sources and Links

Original Teaching Resource - <http://sustainicum.at/en/modules/view/337>

## Funded by

This teaching resource, realised within the project ConSus, has been funded with the support of the TEMPUS of the European Union. The contents reflect the views of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.