

Name:	Date:
Teacher:	Period:
Group members, if any:	

1. Please work on this individually:

Is freshwater availability relevant? Is the topic of freshwater important to you personally? Is the topic important to your community?

Please circle the choice below that best matches how you feel about the topic's relevance.

Freshwater is not important to me <i>and</i> is not important to my community	Freshwater is not important to me, <i>but</i> is important to my community
Freshwater is important to me, <i>but</i> is not important to my community	Freshwater is important to me <i>and</i> is important to my community

When instructed, flip over to Page 2.

2. Please work on this individually and read the following information carefully.

Humans create **models** to help explain things.

Below are three models. These provide different explanations for the global availability of freshwater.

Model A: Earth's freshwater is abundant and will remain so even in the face of global climate change.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

Earth is a closed system. This means that there is no net water loss globally. Even with future impacts of climate change, the amount of freshwater will not change.

Model B: Earth's freshwater challenges will be solved by engineering solutions.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

Although the future may bring challenges to maintaining an adequate freshwater supply, technology is rapidly changing. Future engineering solutions will meet any future freshwater challenges.

Model C: Earth has a shortage of freshwater, which will worsen as our world's population increases.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

Increasing population will limit the availability of freshwater supplies. Almost all human activities require freshwater. Climate change will further stress availability.

Plausibility is a judgment we make about the potential truthfulness of one explanatory model compared to another. The judgment may be tentative (not certain). You do not have to be committed to that decision.

Circle the plausibility of each model. [Make three circles, one for each model.]

	Greatly implausible (or even impossible)									Highly plausible
Model A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Model B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Model C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10