The Script

Today we will watch clips from a film that focuses on the killing of dolphins in Japan. After watching the clip, we will all be participating in a preliminary governmental hearing about a dispute depicted in the film. There are two sides in the dispute and you will be playing the role of someone on one of the sides: either Japanese fishermen and women or Western filmmakers and animal activists. The purpose of the hearing is to help the judge (role played by your teacher) determine whether or not “the powers that be” should take future action against the killing of dolphins in Japan. The main issue you should focus on in this hearing is whether or not the parties involved in the dispute have been unfair and unethical in how they have treated dolphins or each other during the dispute. In other words, your role is to convince the judge that the people on the other side of the dispute are somehow wrong, unfair, unethical, and/or misguided in their behaviors and beliefs. After watching the film, you will have some time to prepare your case and to select a spokesperson or spokespeople to cross examine the other side and to present your arguments to the judge. After watching the film, a more specific explanation of the debate’s format will be given to you.