

THE LAKE

A large lake surrounds a large city.

Thousands of people rely on the lake for commercial fishing, tourism, fresh drinking water, and recreation.

A company, known as the **POLLUTER**, dumps toxic outputs of production in the lake.

The **POLLUTER** suspects that the outputs may be harmful to the lake, but they employ thousands of people in the city and any new regulations may make them less competitive. Pollution is the “cost of doing business.”

SCIENTISTS, after studying the lake’s health, overwhelmingly conclude that the lake will be dead in 10 years if the polluting does not end.

The **PUPPETMASTER**, a wealthy individual who is afraid that new regulations could affect their business empire, decides that the **SCIENTISTS** are probably overreacting.

The **PUPPETMASTER** decides to form their own scientific research group called “Scientists for a Healthy Lake.”

The **PUPPETMASTER** pays a small group of scientists to publish bogus research that claims that the lake “has never been healthier.”

The **MEDIA** report that a new scientific study claims that the lake is in good health.

POLITICIANS have the power to stop the toxic outputs, but they decide that any action against the **POLLUTER** is too risky since there does not seem to be a scientific consensus.

The **VOTERS** listen to the **MEDIA**, **POLITICIANS**, and **SCIENTISTS** and become deeply divided and confused. They are not sure if the lake is nearly dead, in great health, or somewhere in between.

The **POLLUTER** continues to dump toxic outputs in the lake.

10 YEARS LATER...**THE LAKE DIES.**

QUESTION to ANSWER

**What percentage of blame would you assign to each of the six (6) actors?
Please explain.**

PUPPETMASTER

%

POLLUTER

%

MEDIA

%

VOTERS

%

▲
POLITICIANS

%

SCIENTISTS

%