

Activity 2: Task Group Discussion

Name: _____ Date: _____

The goal of this discussion is to decide whether an economy that is in the midst of a recession like the one the U.S. is currently experiencing should provide a stimulus to get the economy going.

First, each specialist should read the question and provide their answer to the main question posed to their specialist group. Each specialist should explain their reasoning to the group.

- **Does the economy currently need more stimulus?**
- **Are households, businesses, and state and local governments stressed and in need of help?**
- **Based on historical levels and future projections, are high interest rates currently a concern?**
- **Based on current and historical measures, are interest payments currently a concern to the overall federal budget?**
- **Did the CARES Act expense have a big impact on the budget deficit and national debt?**
- **Does a one-time intervention such as the CARES Act have a continued effect on the long-term deficit or debt? What government programs are likely to contribute to increased deficits and federal debt in the future?**

Second, after each specialist has taken their turn, the group should discuss the following questions:

After weighing the immediate benefits of a stimulus against stimulus's long-term costs, is a fiscal stimulus a useful tool to counteract the effects of the current Covid-19 recession? Do you think the \$1.9 trillion Families First Coronavirus Response Act passed in March of 2021 was a good idea?

Your group should discuss the question and come to a consensus. One group member should be prepared to discuss the group's opinion.