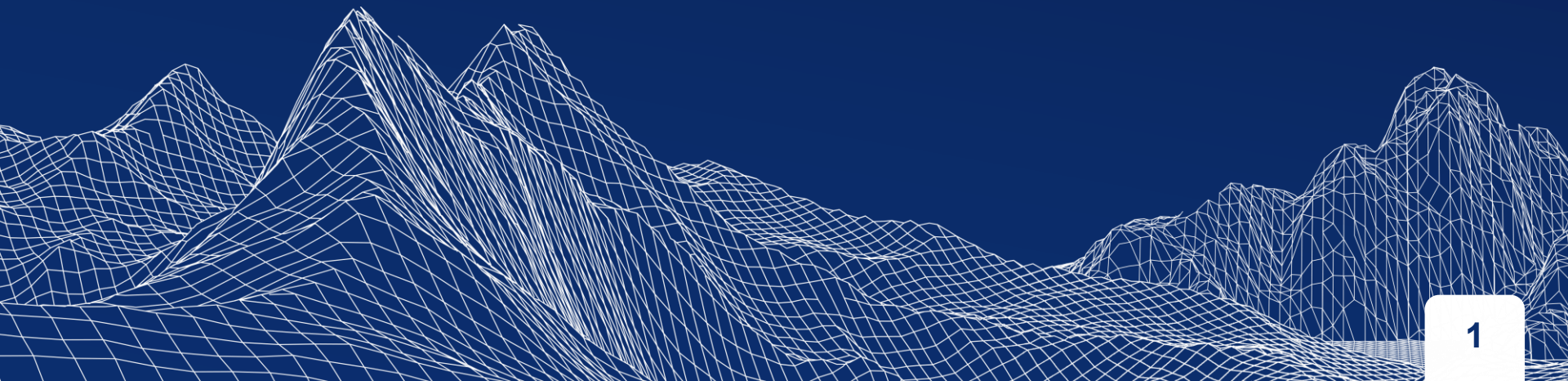
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING

Language Center

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# STANDOUT 4

## Team Project 8



# Read the conversation. [Approx. 1 min]



**Bita:** I never realized how difficult it would be to get adjusted to life in the United States. There are so many things to do.

**Consuelo:** I know. Getting a driver's license and registering my car was very complicated.

**Ranjit:** In New York, we have good public transportation, so I don't have to worry about a car. But I did get a jury summons the other day, and I didn't know what I was supposed to do with it.

**Ricardo:** I got one of those last year and I couldn't understand it, so I threw it away.

**Minh:** You threw it away? You can't do that. You have to respond.

**Bita:** What about tickets? The other day, I got a ticket for jaywalking. I want to fight it, but I don't know where to go.

**Ranjit:** I think you have to go to court, don't you?

**Minh:** The most confusing thing I've had to do is pay taxes. Can't they make those forms easier to understand?

**Consuelo:** I agree. Last year, we paid someone to do our taxes.

[Approx. 3 mins]

# Practise the conversation.

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**Bita:** I never realized how difficult it would be to get adjusted to life in the United States. There are so many things to do.

**Consuelo:** I know. Getting a driver's license and registering my car was very complicated.

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**Consuelo:** I agree. Last year, we paid someone to do our taxes.

# Read the conversation.

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**[Approx. 1 min]**

1.**Q:** If I already have my driver's license from another country, do I still have to take the test?
**A:** It depends on the country and local rules. Some licenses may be accepted, others require testing.
2.**Q:** How do I prepare for the written test?
**A:** You can study the driver's handbook and take practice tests online.
3.**Q:** How many questions are on the test?
**A:** Usually around 20 to 30 questions, depending on the region.
4.**Q:** How many questions do I have to get correct?
**A:** You often need to get at least 80% correct to pass.
5.**Q:** What if I don't pass it the first time?
**A:** You can usually retake the test after a short waiting period.
6.**Q:** Do I have to take any other tests?
**A:** Yes, most places require a driving test in addition to the written test.

Review the conversation and select pairs to read the conversation.

# Practise the conversation.

[Approx. 3 mins]

1. **Q:** If I already have my driver's license from another country, do I still have to take the test?
2. **Q:** How do I prepare for the written test?
3. **Q:** How many questions are on the test?
4. **Q:** How many questions do I have to get correct?
5. **Q:** What if I don't pass it the first time?
6. **Q:** Do I have to take any other tests?

Select pairs to change the conversation with your prompts.

# Read the conversation.

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**[Approx. 1 min]**

7.**Q:** What do I need to know about the driving test?
**A:** You'll be tested on basic driving skills, road signs, and safe driving habits.
8.**Q:** How do I apply for the license?
**A:** You need to fill out an application, provide ID, and pay the required fees.
9.**Q:** Do I need to make an appointment to take the driving test?
**A:** Yes, most places require an appointment in advance.
10.**Q:** When will they take my picture?
**A:** Usually after you pass the tests and submit your paperwork.
11.**Q:** How much does it cost?
**A:** The cost varies, but it typically includes fees for the written test, driving test, and license.

Review the conversation and select pairs to read the conversation.

# Practise the conversation.

[Approx. 3 mins]

7.**Q:** What do I need to know about the driving test?
8.**Q:** How do I apply for the license?
9.**Q:** Do I need to make an appointment to take the driving test?
10.**Q:** When will they take my picture?
11.**Q:** How much does it cost?

Select pairs to change the conversation with your prompts.

# Read the conversation.

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**[Approx. 1 min]**

**Bita:** Ranjit, I just got my new driver's license in the mail!

**Ranjit:** Congratulations, Bita! That's wonderful.

**Bita:** What are you looking at?

**Ranjit:** Oh, I just got a jury summons. Can you tell me what I'm supposed to do with it?

**Bita:** Sure. I've had at least three of them.

**Ranjit:** What are they about, anyway?

**Bita:** Well, in the United States, anyone accused of a crime has the right to a fair trial, which means a judge and a jury of their peers get to listen to the case and make a decision.

**Ranjit:** Oh, I get it. So, can anyone be on a jury?

**Bita:** No, you have to meet certain qualifications.

**Ranjit:** Like what?

**Bita:** First of all, you have to be a US citizen and a resident of the county or city where the trial is taking place. Also, you have to be able to understand and speak enough English to participate in the jury selection and the trial.

**Ranjit:** Well, I think I can speak and understand enough English, but I'm not a citizen yet. Does that disqualify me?

**Bita:** I'm afraid so.

**Ranjit:** Darn. It would be interesting to participate in a trial. So, what do I do with this form?

**Bita:** There should be a series of *yes / no* questions on it. Answer them truthfully. Then explain why you are not qualified to participate. Some people who are citizens can be excused for other reasons, like financial hardship, medical conditions, or being older than 65. So, fill out the form and send it back or do it online.

**Ranjit:** That's it?

**Bita:** That's it. Easy, huh?

Review the conversation and select pairs to read the conversation.

# Practise the conversation.

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[Approx. 3 mins]

**Bita:** Ranjit, I just got my new driver's license in the mail!

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**Bita:** That's it. Easy, huh?

Select pairs to change the conversation with your prompts.

# Read the conversation.

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**[Approx. 1 min]**

**Official:** What do you think one of the biggest problems in our community is?

**Resident:** I think the biggest problem is the number of homeless people who sleep on the street.

**Official:** Do you have any ideas about how to solve the problem?

**Resident:** Actually, our neighborhood came up with two ideas. One, we would like to spend our tax dollars to build a bigger homeless shelter. And two, we would like to put a community group together to tell the homeless people about the shelter and take them there if necessary.

**Official:** Those are two great ideas. I'll bring them up at our next council meeting.

Review the conversation and select pairs to read the conversation.

# Practise the conversation.

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[Approx. 3 mins]

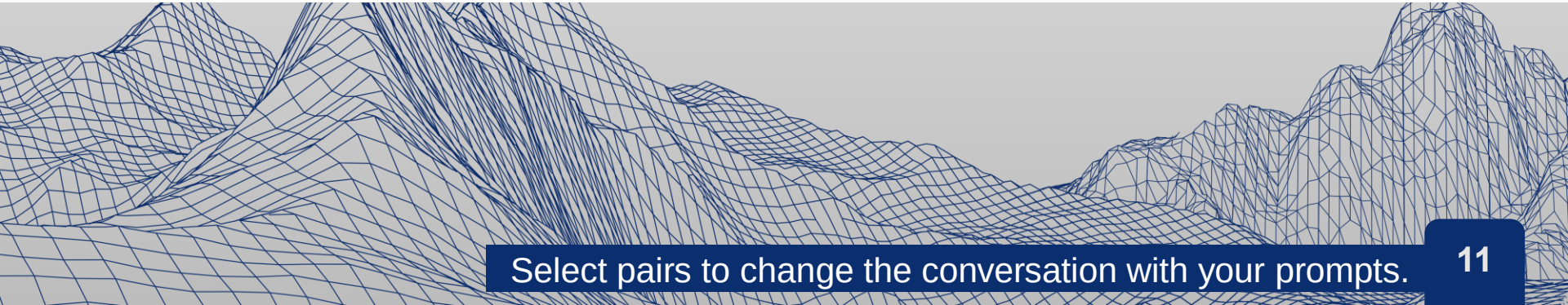
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Select pairs to change the conversation with your prompts.

# Read the conversation.

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**[Approx. 1 min]**

**Norman:** Elections for mayor are coming up here in New York. Have any of you participated in an election before?

**Lucia:** I haven't. I just became a US citizen last year, so I will finally get to vote in this election.

**Ricardo:** So, if we're not citizens, we don't need to pay attention to the elections, do we?

**Lucia:** Oh, I disagree. Even when I wasn't a citizen, I participated in town meetings.

**Tarek:** Why?

**Lucia:** Because I live in this community just like everyone else, and I want my voice to be heard.

**Norman:** I agree with you, Lucia. I think it's important that we voice our opinions on local issues in our community. I've been listening to the candidates' speeches to see who I would vote for. But I don't really understand how the election process works.

**Lucia:** Let's look at the chart our teacher gave us.

Review the conversation and select pairs to read the conversation.

# Practise the conversation.

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[Approx. 3 mins]

**Norman:** Elections for mayor are coming up here in New York. Have any of you participated in an election before?

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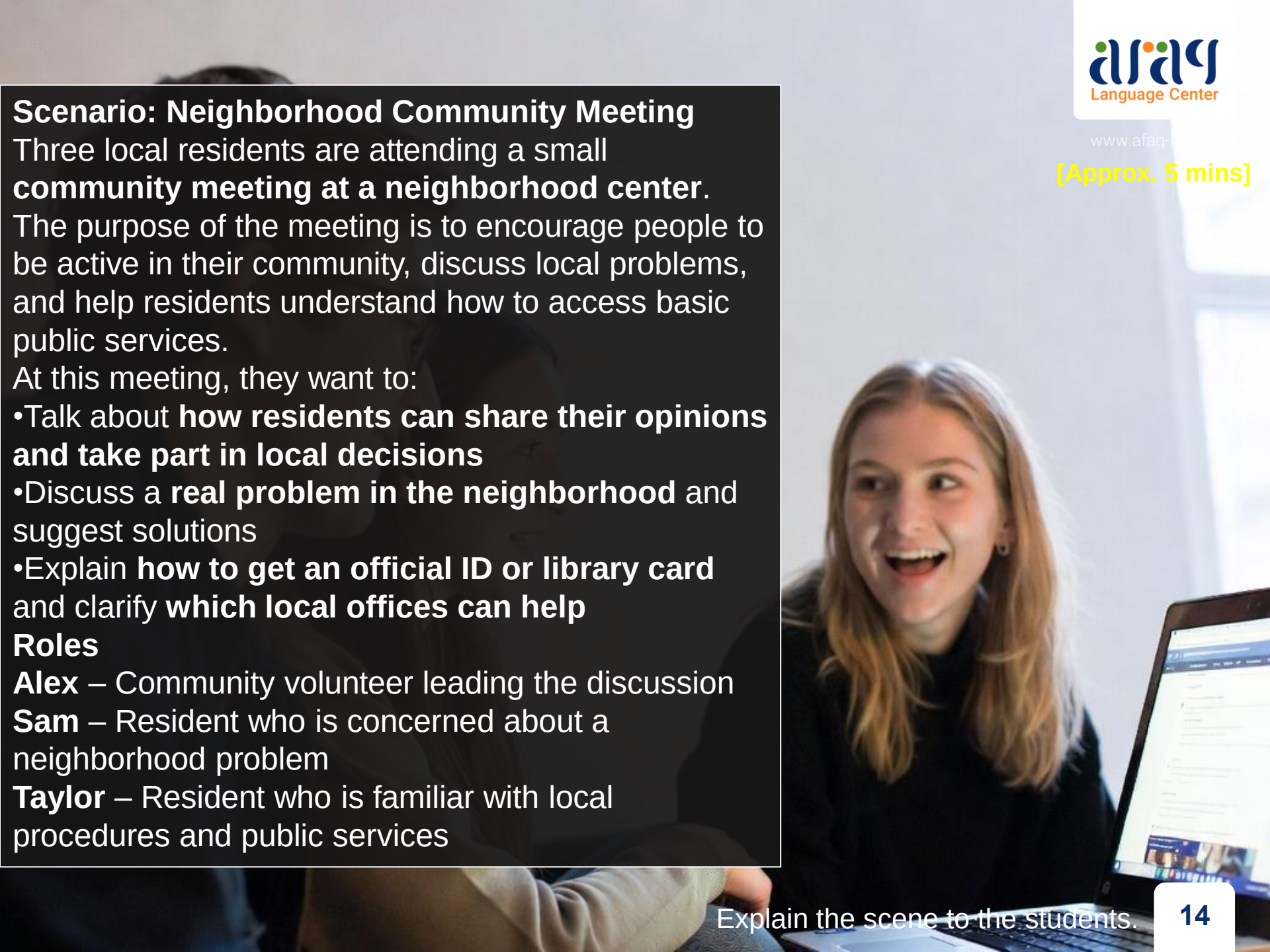
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**Tarek:** Why?

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**Lucia:** Let's look at the chart our teacher gave us.



**Scenario: Neighborhood Community Meeting**
Three local residents are attending a small **community meeting at a neighborhood center**. The purpose of the meeting is to encourage people to be active in their community, discuss local problems, and help residents understand how to access basic public services.
At this meeting, they want to:
•Talk about **how residents can share their opinions and take part in local decisions**
•Discuss a **real problem in the neighborhood** and suggest solutions
•Explain **how to get an official ID or library card** and clarify **which local offices can help**
**Roles**
**Alex** – Community volunteer leading the discussion
**Sam** – Resident who is concerned about a neighborhood problem
**Taylor** – Resident who is familiar with local procedures and public services

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[Approx. 5 mins]

Explain the scene to the students.

# Sample Conversations [Approx. 5 mins]

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**Alex:** Thanks for coming to the community meeting, everyone. The city council is asking residents to share their opinions about improvements in our neighborhood. Sam, have you ever taken part in a local meeting or survey before?
**Sam:** Not really. I usually just hear about decisions after they're made. But I think it's important to speak up. We live here, so our opinions should matter.
**Alex:** I agree. When more residents participate, local leaders understand what the community really needs.
**Sam:** Well, there's something I'd like to bring up. The park near my building has become very dirty lately. There's litter on the ground, and the trash bins are often full.
**Alex:** That's a real concern. What do you think we could do about it?
**Sam:** Maybe the city could empty the bins more often. And we could also put up signs to remind people to keep the park clean.
**Alex:** Those are practical ideas. I can include those suggestions in the report we send to the local council office.
**Taylor:** Talking about local services reminds me — I finally applied for a public library card last week.
**Alex:** Oh, that's great. Was it difficult?
**Taylor:** Not at all. I just went to the public library with my ID and proof of address. They gave me a short form to fill out, and I received my card the same day.
**Sam:** That sounds easy. I've actually been meaning to get a new national ID card. Do you know what the process is?
**Taylor:** Yes. You have to go to the government services office. First, you fill out an application form. Then they take your photo and fingerprints. You also need to bring your old ID, if you still have it.
**Sam:** Can anyone apply?
**Taylor:** Any citizen over the required age can apply. If someone isn't sure, the staff at the office can explain the requirements.
**Alex:** It's good to know where to go for help. Between sharing our opinions, solving local problems, and understanding public services, we can really make a difference in our neighborhood.
**Sam:** I'm glad I came today. I didn't realize how simple it is to get involved.
**Taylor:** Me too. We should invite more neighbors next time.
**Alex:** Definitely. The more people participate, the stronger our community becomes.

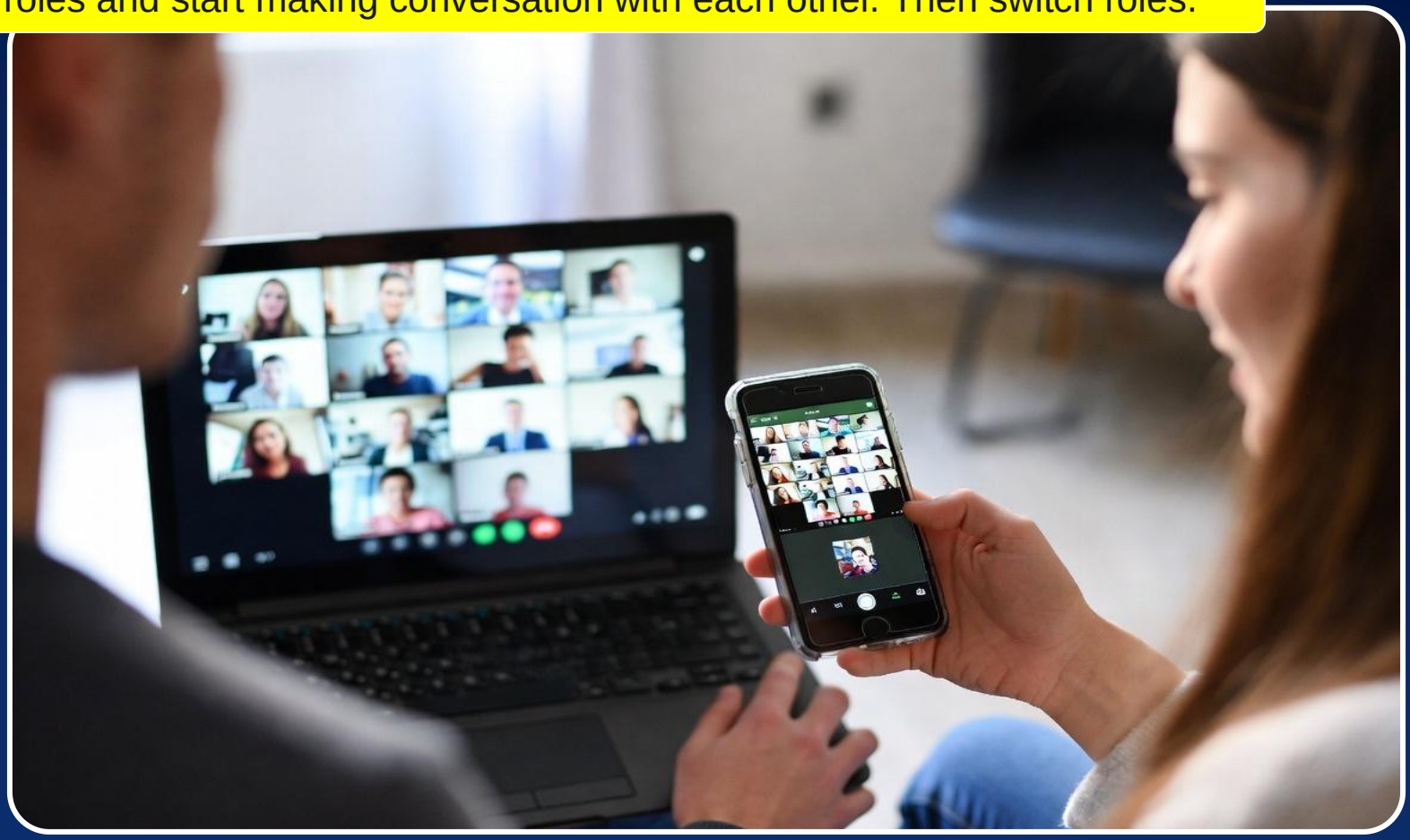
Select groups to read the conversation.

# In groups

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Take roles and start making conversation with each other. Then switch roles.



[Approx. 6 mins]

Put the Ss in breakout rooms and have them perform the conversation based on the scenario. All the roles must be switched among them.

# Class Sharing

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**[Approx. 10 mins]**



Ask all the groups to quickly share in class.