

THE PROBLEM

Your mentor, the mayor of your city, leaves a message for you to meet her at the city swimming pool on the south side of town at your lunch time. She has talked with your principal to see if you can stay with her for the remainder of the school day. She says that you need to bring old clothes and shoes. She wants you to study the situation in order to make a recommendation and presentation for the city council.

Your city has two swimming pools: one in the south part of town that is the oldest; it is called Park Cities (Park), and one in the north that is new and offers sports water park-like slides and pools. It is called The Slides of Glenview (Slides). Both are connected to a park area. Again, the south is old and the north is new. You remember that there have been issues with Park Cities for the past year.

The issue with Park stems from its location and age. The pool is forty years old and situated next to an old fertilizer plant. The pool was shut down at the end of the swimming season last year because of fears of leakage from the fertilizer storage tanks and the old and often repaired cracks in the pool. Because of the pool's problems, age, and location, the city council decided to close it permanently. The town's citizens disagreed with their decision. For the past six months, citizens for both sides of the issue have appeared before the council in order to express their opinions.

Today the mayor and city council are meeting with local citizens, engineers, representatives from the EPA, a scientist who specializes in ground water contamination, and the county representative from Texas Parks and Wildlife who could provide funding for rehabilitation of the pool. Their purpose is to collect data in order make a decision about the future of the pool.

The citizens are ready for the council to rescind or maintain its decision because swimming season opens in four weeks.

Complete your own Reasoning Model, describe your process for making a decision, and prepare a presentation for the next city council meeting.

