

## ACTIVITY 4: READ ABOUT WATER AFFORDABILITY

The issue of water quality and affordability is so vast and complex that it can be helpful to focus in on a few key aspects of the problem to facilitate learning. This activity intends to help students more fully grasp the impact that high water bills have on citizens.

In this activity, students will use a **Think Pair Square Protocol** for discussing the what they will read.

First, have students partner up and distribute the article [High Cost of Water Hits Home](#) by Circle of Blue from *Great Lakes Now*. Allow time for students to individually read the article, and have them jot down three things they learned in the article.

Then, give students time after reading to discuss the article that they read with their partner. Have students share which three points they noted from the article and how those points connect to each other. The pair should come up with a statement to summarize all of their article takeaways.

Next, have two student pairs join up, standing near each other to form the four corners of a square, to discuss the article and what they talked about in their pairs. Encourage them to come to a consensus about which point they found most important or interesting in the article.

Last, have each group come up with a summary statement of the most important point from their discussion and ask for a volunteer in each group to share that most important point with the whole group.

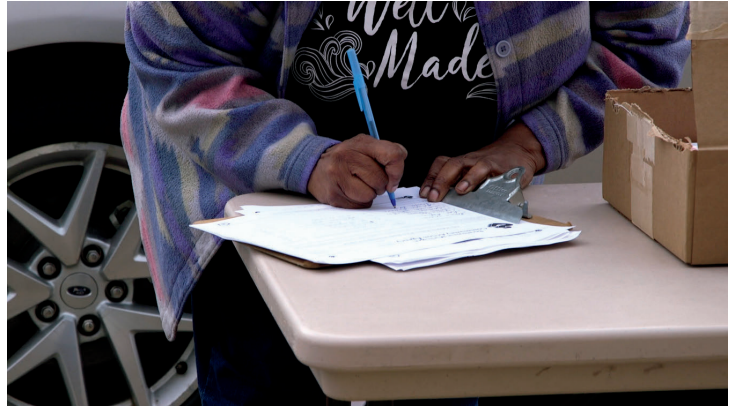


Image Credit: Great Lakes Now

As student groups share out their most important point, record their ideas on the board and have students copy the list of student ideas down into their notebooks.

After the shareout is complete, ask students to return to their groups and discuss one last question based on the article:

**Based on the article, should all cities have an income-based payment option for water bills for citizens like the one described in Philadelphia?**

After giving the groups some time to discuss this question, invite conversation from the entire class to see what consensus can be reached.

*Further Learning: Interested to know how cities can prevent water crises? Check out segment 3 entitled, "Preventing Future Water Crises" from [Great Lakes Now episode 1031—Pipes and Ports](#).*