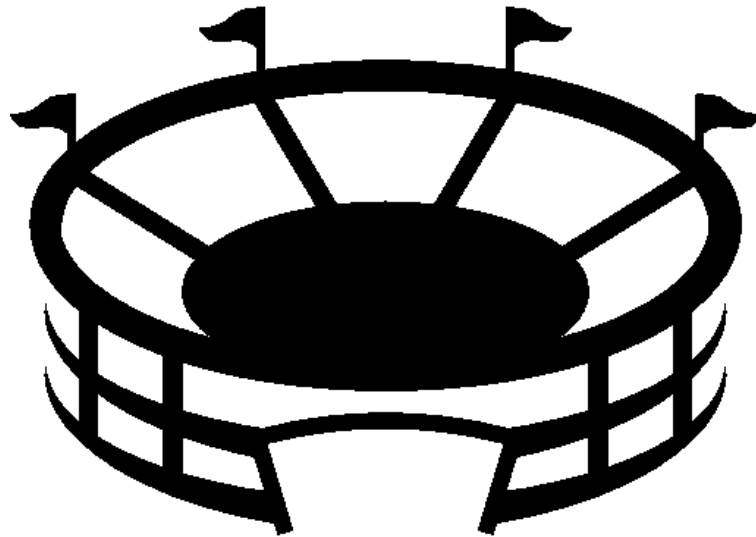


To Dig or Not to Dig: The Stadium Showdown!



Modified by Karin Larkin from activity created by
George Brauer and distributed by the SAA

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TO DIG OR NOT TO DIG - THE STADIUM SHOWDOWN

The city of Denver has acquired land for the construction of a new football stadium that will house its NFL franchise. The new facility will require construction of a highway extension, an interchange to connect the stadium with a nearby interstate highway, and an access way for an extension of Denver's light rail system. In compliance with federal and state laws, the proposed rights-of-way, which pass directly in front of the stadium, must undergo an archaeological survey to determine if any cultural resources would be impacted during construction.

After several weeks of intense field site testing, archaeologists report that the site is of tremendous scientific and historical value and could help answer many questions concerning Denver's and Colorado's aboriginal past. Archaeologists report that they have in fact uncovered an extensive concentration of human remains deposited in numerous large ossuaries. These remains have been identified by a forensic anthropologist as being Native American. Archaeologists, in compliance with federal and state preservation laws, halt further excavation and notify the Native American Tribal Council of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. Tribal leaders visit the excavation site and immediately identify many of the uncovered artifacts as ancient ceremonial burial objects. Upon further investigation, tribal leaders inform archaeologists that the proposed stadium and highway construction site is the location of a cemetery of their ancestors, and that it has significant religious and heritage values to Colorado's Native American population. Tribal leaders demand that the site be covered again, and left undisturbed with no further archaeological excavation or stadium construction.

This demand sends shock waves through the Denver community, which has long sought the return of an NFL Team to the area. The Governor, the Mayor, members of the City Council, and Colorado's Congressional Delegation urge the immediate formation of a task-force charged with the task of making recommendations on the request of the tribal council. The task-force is composed of the following:

- Stadium Building Authority
- State Archaeologist
- Denver's Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Landmark Preservation Commission
- Native American Tribal Council
- Urban Planning Commission
- Colorado Archaeological Society
- Denver Historical Society
- Owner of the NFL franchise
- Bronco's Fan Group
- Hotel Owner's Association
- Denver Economic Development
- RTD Regional Transportation District
- Professor of Archaeology
- Institute for Indigenous Resource Management
- Native American Rights Fund
- Small Business Association

In addition, the Mayor will serve as task-force chairperson AND the President of the City Council (whose ancestry is Native American) will serve as vice-chairperson.

TO DIG OR NOT TO DIG - THE STADIUM SHOWDOWN

PROCEDURE:

1. Read the background information and role card.
2. Identify stakeholders with similar opinions/goals and meet to plan a presentation strategy. Be sure to identify appropriate laws and codes of ethics to support your ideas.
3. Each group should construct a graphic organizer to maintain a list of important points made by each interest group during task-force meetings.
4. Engage in task-force discussions to state your stakeholder positions and proposed solutions to the problem.
5. Resume original stakeholder group meeting to discuss any revisions to your course of action and outline compromises or concessions. Stakeholder group members should spend some time researching these.
6. Resume task-force discussions and come to an agreement about what to present to the Mayor and President of the City council
7. Write a reflection/debrief discussing the issues presented, process, and negotiations made during the activity and relate those to applicable laws and codes of ethics. This reflection can also include your own impressions/ideas on the topic but be sure to separate those from disciplinary ethical considerations. This should be 800-1000 words.