

Crash Landing Consensus



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FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Introduce the Problem (slide 8):** Read the following introductory statement to students to begin the activity.

“Hello, everyone! You are all guests at the Desert Sands Resort in White Sands, New Mexico. You are in the lobby when suddenly, an announcement begins blaring over the intercom. “Attention all guests: Locals in the area have just discovered a UFO that has crash landed, blocking the exit to the resort. We have reason to believe that the owner is hiding among resort guests. While the situation is being handled, no one will be able to leave the property. Thank you for choosing Desert Sands.” Your task is to decide as a group what to do about the UFO. Should you try to move it? Should you try to identify the alien and get them to move it? Do you get on board to look around? You decide.”

2. **Introduce the Characters (slide 8):** Pass out each of the **Lead Character Sheets**. There are four sheets total to be used by 4-5 students (Jo/Jessie Andrews can be played by one or two people, depending on the size of the group). Everyone who is not a lead character should get either a **Minor Character Sheet** or an **Extra Character Sheet**. They may choose one of the five minor characters or a blank character sheet for them to fill out. Instruct the lead characters to read **only** the introductory statement on their character card to the whole group. Make sure they become familiar with all the information on their cards, but not reveal any of it yet.
3. **Mix and Mingle (slide 9):** Have students walk around the room and get to know each other (in character) for about 7 minutes and allow more time if needed/available. Students will casually mix and mingle and discuss the matter of the UFO and what to do about it. This is where the other information on the character cards comes into play. The goal is for the students to gather information from each other to help them come to a shared, mutually beneficial decision by the end of the process.
 - The lead characters should follow the information on the character sheets closely. If something comes up in discussion that is not explicitly mentioned on their sheet, they should exercise creative freedom and respond however they choose.
 - Minor and extra characters can say whatever they want in these conversations. Still, they should focus on listening to the lead characters and noting what they feel would be a mutually beneficial solution for all.
 - As students talk to each other, they will fill in the “Notes” column of their I Think/We Think note organizer for each character they talk to and what they bring to the discussion of possible solutions.



- After mingling with the group (it is not necessary for every student to talk to every other student), students will write what they think the ultimate solution should be in the “I Think” box of their note organizer.
4. **Q&A (slide 9):** Arrange players to facilitate a discussion (about 7 minutes long). Students will be able to ask characters questions in an open setting where everyone can hear their responses in order to learn more information. The goal here is to ensure everyone has enough information about what the characters bring to the table and help them come up with solutions that will benefit everyone.
 5. **Share-Out:** Have each of the lead characters present their “I Think” suggestion. List these suggestions somewhere everyone will be able to see. After all lead characters have shared, minor and extra characters can voluntarily add to the list, especially if they have a different idea than what’s been shared so far.
 6. **Vote (slide 10):** After all ideas are written down, provide each player with a sticky note. They will use them to cast votes on possible solutions. Participants are to remain in character and choose the solution they like the best by placing their sticky note next to their preferred resolution.

We Think

Secretly provide the alien with what they need to allow them to leave without confrontation or detection.

Attempt to befriend the alien and welcome them to stay on Earth and tour the planet with us as a way to raise funds and supplies to get them home.

Alert the appropriate government authorities as to who we suspect may be the alien.

When everyone has cast their vote, all participants will make a final decision on the resolution with the most votes. Students will decide whether they “love it,” “can live with it,” or “can’t live with it.” To end the decision-making process, the final solution must have 100% “can live with it” or “love it” votes. If there is someone who “can’t live with it,” the discussion must continue. Revise the highest voting resolution until everyone can at least vote “I can live with it.”

Ask for reflections on the quality and satisfaction of the final solution versus their initial individual ideas about resolving the matter.



GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FACILITATORS

Suggestions for keeping students on task and moving in a productive direction.

While students are mingling:

- Ask questions to help students get into their character's motives.
 - Why does your character care how we resolve this?
 - What kind of solution would benefit your character the most?
- Suggest questions that students can ask the other characters that will help them understand their motives.
 - Why are you here?
 - How are you feeling about this UFO business?
 - What matters to you the most in this situation?
 - What is your goal in this situation?

While students are writing or sharing "I Think" statements:

- Does anyone have a solution idea that is different from the ideas listed so far?
- Does anyone have a solution idea that combines some of the ideas listed so far?
- Before we vote on this list, do any of these ideas need to be removed from consideration? Why would you suggest that?

While students are trying to reach a consensus:

- If your most popular solution statement comes back with several votes of "I can't live with it," consider looking at other popular solutions to see if there is a way to merge them together or if there is another starting place that gains more consensus.
- Ask a student who "Can't live with it," what part of the solution they can't live with.
- Ask a student who "Can't live with it," what need they have that still isn't met.
- Ask a student who "Loves it" if there is a part of the solution they could go without.



Lead Character Sheet

JO AND/OR JESSIE ANDREWS: *The Tinfoil Hats*

Position: You want to investigate, but you are wary of alien technology.

Introductory statement: We are here on an alien-hunting trip. We are from Iowa and wanted to vacation near the alien-sighting capital of the world. We are excited about the possibility of seeing a UFO and maybe even an alien in real life.

Share freely: We are really in-tune with alien culture and technology. We would love a chance to observe the UFO to check it out. We think it's wise to stay cautious, though. This alien could be here to conduct weird science experiments on humans.

Keep secret: You are not the aliens. You do not know who it is. You'd like to find the alien so you can pick their brain about how the UFO works and what it runs on.

★ **Only reveal this information if you are asked about it specifically:**

Why were you being sneaky? Why are your clothes mismatched?

We were at the pool, and our clothes were knocked into the water by accident. We stole someone else's clothes and tried to sneak back to our room so no one would notice.

What do you think we should do about this UFO?

The alien could be good, or they could be here to do strange science experiments on us. We want to set up covert observations of the crash site to see if we can get more information about the alien's intentions.

What have you heard?

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Kat | Kat doesn't seem to care about the UFO. They keep changing the subject to going to the spa or the pool, but one of their recent social media posts was clearly taken near the resort entrance where the UFO crashed. |
| Quincy | Quincy isn't very talkative or social. They say they're a cowboy from Texas, so they might just prefer to be a loner. Either way, they look a little uncomfortable with the whole situation. |
| Eddie | Eddie has no luggage or any other belongings with them. Everyone else has at least one bag with them. |



Lead Character Sheet

KAT UPTON: **The Influencer**

Position: You trust that the alien is good and isn't planning anything harmful against humans. You want to help get the UFO running again however you can so they can go home.

Introductory statement: I'm an influencer. I came here with my bestie, Tina, because the resort offered me a free stay if I posted about them online. Follow me @KatTravels!

Share freely: I don't know anything about aliens, and honestly, who cares about the UFO? Who would want to leave this place? It's a literal paradise!

Keep secret: You have a secret obsession with UFO sightings, but you're afraid your followers will think you're a nerd if you post about it. You aren't the alien, but you're secretly excited that you might get to see a real UFO!

★ **Only reveal this information if you are asked about it specifically:**

I think I've seen your posts before. Actually, I just saw one you posted from right outside! Did you see the UFO?

I actually took that picture yesterday, so I wasn't outside when the UFO *supposedly* crashed.

What do you think we should do about this UFO?

Why do we have to do anything? I wish everyone would stop badgering me about it. I'm fine being stuck here forever. Tina and I were thinking about going to the spa.

What have you heard?

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Jo and/or Jessie | Jo and Jessie say they came to New Mexico on an alien-hunting trip. The front desk attendant says she saw them acting sneaky around the hotel. They are both wearing mismatched outfits. |
| Quincy | Quincy isn't very talkative or social. They say they're a cowboy from Texas, so they might just prefer to be a loner. Either way, they look a little uncomfortable. |
| Eddie | Eddie has no luggage or any other belongings with them. Everyone else has at least one bag with them. |



Lead Character Sheet

QUINCY BELL: *The Cowboy*

Position: You are trying your best to hide your identity from the group. You just want to get out of here and go home.

Introductory statement: I am just here to enjoy the scenery. I don't really want to be a part of this discussion.

Share freely: Lie and tell the group that you are from Texas and find it very hot.

Make small talk about things like the weather and olive oil. Ask where you can find olive oil or if anyone has some with them.

(Generally, try to stay quiet and not engage in conversation. You don't know how to speak like a human and don't want to give yourself away, but you know a little about U.S. geography and human life from the Earth Studies class you took as a youngling.)

Keep secret: You are the alien. You were cruising around Earth on a sightseeing trip and crashed your UFO in the desert after running out of fuel. The ship runs on olive oil, so you are trying to find some so you can return home.

★ **Only reveal this information if you are asked about it specifically:**

If you get to talk to Kat, tell her you are the alien and that you need 30 gallons of olive oil to power the ship and get home. If you don't get to talk to Kat during the Mix and Mingle stage, your identity must remain a secret. If anyone else asks you a question about yourself, make up an answer and think on the spot.

What do you think we should do about this UFO?

I honestly have no idea. I would probably just leave it alone.

What have you heard?

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Lead Character Sheet

EDDIE WALLIS: **The Businessman**

Position: You have invested a lot of money in a technology company. You want to get on the ship and check it out to see if you could use any of the alien technology to give to the company.

Introductory statement: I was supposed to be at a convention in Albuquerque, but my plane had to land at a different airport. This was the only hotel with available rooms. I hope we can figure this situation out soon so I can get back to business.

Share freely: You really aren't supposed to be here. Hopefully, you will only have to stay one night and get a rental car to Albuquerque tomorrow morning. You hope the situation gets resolved so that you can leave the resort property.

Keep secret: You want to look at the technology on the ship, but you don't want anyone else to get ahold of it too.

★ **Only reveal this information if you are asked about it specifically:**

Why don't you have any bags or luggage? If you were on a business trip, shouldn't you have a suitcase?

The airline lost my luggage when we had to land at a different airport. My bags are probably in Albuquerque.

What do you think we should do about this UFO?

We should probably leave it alone. Or I could go check it out for myself while you all stay behind. I can handle it.

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Minor Character Sheet

TINA POWELL: Kat's Bestie

You are here with your best friend Kat because she got a free stay at the resort for posting about it. Kat has more followers than you, but you're hoping this trip will make your account more popular. You just want to go to the spa, so you agree with whatever Kat says.

Your job is to discuss the situation with the lead characters and other resort guests to reach a solution. Gather information from the lead characters during the Mix and Mingle section to help formulate your solution suggestions. You should also take notes on your I Think/We Think Note Organizer about each character and their motives in this discussion. If you don't get a chance to ask all your questions during the Mix and Mingle section, ask them, or see if other guests ask the same things, during the Q&A session. If others in the group seem stumped on possible solutions, consider providing your suggestions during the Share-Out section.

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Minor Character Sheet

GIUSEPPE FETTUCINI: Resort Chef

You are the resort's resident chef. You hope this UFO mess gets sorted out so you can head home when your shift is over. You're not looking forward to the dinner rush tonight, but it would be kind of cool if an alien ordered your signature Chicken Parmigiana.

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Minor Character Sheet

BETHANY ST. JAMES: International Art Thief

You came to the resort because a famous artist is staying here on their way to a high-profile gallery. They are keeping a priceless painting in their room, and you stole it and replaced it with a fake. Now you can't escape because of the UFO. You hope you don't get caught.

Your job is to discuss the situation with the lead characters and other resort guests to reach a solution. Gather information from the lead characters during the Mix and Mingle section to help formulate your solution suggestions. You should also take notes on your I Think/We Think Note Organizer about each character and their motives in this discussion. If you don't get a chance to ask all your questions during the Mix and Mingle section, ask them, or see if other guests ask the same things during the Q&A session. If others in the group seem stumped on possible solutions, consider providing your suggestions during the Share-Out section.

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Minor Character Sheet

DUSTY DANIELS: Otero County Sheriff

You are the local county sheriff. You got a tip that a criminal, possibly an art thief, was casing the resort. You came here to get to the bottom of things, and now you have the perfect opportunity to catch them in the act while the exit is blocked by the UFO.

Your job is to discuss the situation with the lead characters and other resort guests to reach a solution. Gather information from the lead characters during the Mix and Mingle section to help formulate your solution suggestions. You should also take notes on your I Think/We Think Note Organizer about each character and their motives in this discussion. If you don't get a chance to ask all your questions during the Mix and Mingle section, ask them, or see if other guests ask the same things during the Q&A session. If others in the group seem stumped on possible solutions, consider providing your suggestions during the Share-Out section.

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Minor Character Sheet

SAM SANCHEZ: *The Reporter*

You are the rookie news reporter for the White Sands Times. Your boss sent you to the hotel to interview some guests for a story about tourism in the area. You can't believe a UFO just crashed here; this could be your big break!

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Extra Character Sheet

YOUR NAME: _____

Why are you at the resort?

Your job is to discuss the situation with the lead characters and other resort guests to reach a solution. Gather information from the lead characters during the Mix and Mingle section to help formulate your solution suggestions. You should also take notes on your I Think/We Think Note Organizer about each character and their motives in this discussion. If you don't get a chance to ask all your questions during the Mix and Mingle section, ask them, or see if other guests ask the same things during the Q&A session. If others in the group seem stumped on possible solutions, consider providing your suggestions during the Share-Out section.

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