

Crisis in the ATL!: Scene 1

DeAndre: I'm gonna kick your butt! Your health is almost gone and I just learned my unblockable move!

Talia: Bring it, DeAndre, I'm gonna take you down!

DeAndre and Talia sat on the floor of Talia's living room, punching madly at their controls as their two characters threw punches, jumped high into the air and kicked. Atlanta was in the middle of a terrible heat wave, and it was so hot outside that everyone was staying inside with their air conditioners up to the max. They'd been playing on Talia's Playstation 2 all afternoon in the cool, air-conditioned living room. So far they were tied.

Talia's Mom: Talia, put down that game, you and your friend have homework to do!

Talia (groaning): Just one minute, I've almost won.

She was so close, all she had to do was throw this one combo move and she'd have broken the tie. Just one more move -- Suddenly the TV blinked out. Talia and DeAndre jumped to their feet.

Talia and DeAndre: "Hey, no more TV!"

Talia's mother came into the living room.

Talia's Mom: None of the digital clocks are working and the fridge and the air conditioning won't turn on. What's going on?

Crisis in the ATL!: Scene 2

DeAndre: Man, is what's going on with the stoplights? None of them are working!

Talia and DeAndre had been riding around with Talia's mother in the car for an hour, visiting other people's apartments and asking around. No one had any lights or AC, and it was getting later in the afternoon. Talia's mom sighed and turned on the car radio.

Radio Announcer: We interrupt our normal programming to bring you this special message.

Due to unknown reasons, the entire city of Atlanta is experiencing a power-out. The scope of this power-out appears to be similar to that which occurred in New York City and other parts of the northeast last summer, although surrounding cities such as Decatur are unaffected. Adding to the problem, all of the expert technicians in the metro Atlanta area are out of town at a conference. Mayor Shirley Franklin is offering a \$50,000 reward to anyone who can put together a report that identifies the problem, how it happened and why. The mayor has said that she prefers clear, easy to read illustrations to explain what happened. In other news, temperatures in the city continue to spike in the low 100s, with 95% humidity and a UV rating of 'Extreme,' with no signs of cooling in sight. We return now to regularly scheduled programming on your favorite hip hop and R&B station, Hot 107.9, kicking off a full hour of hits with Nelly's "It's Getting Hot in Here."

Talia and DeAndre looked at each other. Fifty thousand dollars! That was incredible!

DeAndre: We should try to make one of those reports. Imagine what we could do with all that money!

Talia: Yeah, but my computer won't work because the power's out. We need to call our friends in Decatur!

Crisis in the ATL!: Scene 3

Mayor Franklin: That's amazing, you kids and your friends figured it out before anyone else! How did you know that it was the air conditioners the whole time?

Talia: We just figured out that if everyone had their air conditioners turned way up from the heat wave, they'd put too much stress on the city's power plants.

Mayor Franklin: Well, how did you do it?

DeAndre: We met with some friends from our school and looked at our textbooks and some of the science news magazines we have lying around. Our friends in Decatur went online and did web research, and looked at books and magazines in their public library. Anyway, we read about the power out in New York City, and found out that one of the big reasons they lost power all over the city was because everyone had been using their air conditioners too much. Some of us drew diagrams of circuits, power grids and generators, while others wrote a summary of what we thought was going on and what had caused it.

Once Mayor Franklin had read their proposal, she called some of the electrical specialists who were out of town at their conference and they confirmed that the kids were probably right about the air conditioners.

Talia: Great. Can we get the power back on now?

Mayor Franklin: We sure can, once the electricians get back into town, and that should be anytime now. But first things first: we need to get you all that reward!

Poster Guidelines

For this case, “Crisis in the ATL!” your group has the opportunity to make a poster that you would feel confident about presenting to the mayor of Atlanta. This poster can be as colorful, artistic and beautiful as you want, and you can bring markers, crayons and color pencils from home if you’d like.

HOWEVER, each group’s poster must include **all** of these things:

- ***Describe*** what you think caused the power out in Atlanta. ***Explain*** HOW this happened, and include what you know about electricity, how it is produced and how it travels through city power grids.
- ***Explain*** how the power out could be fixed, and be specific!
- ***Diagram*** how a power grid works, from a house through a neighborhood to a whole city.
- ***List*** the different types of resources used to produce electricity
- ***Describe*** energy consumption in the United States, and ways that Americans can reduce their use of electricity.

Your group should think about what you need to do to complete this poster and work as a team to include everything in the list above. Your group may divide up the research that still needs to be done, **but you must work on the poster together!**

Self Evaluation Worksheet

Date: _____

Your Name: _____ Group #: _____

Instructions: Please circle the response with which you agree the most. This evaluation will only be read by your teacher and will **not** be shown to other students.

1. How would you rate *your* participation in group discussion and group work?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

2. How would you rate *your* effort in completing the case?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

3. Did *you* complete the assigned homework? **Yes** **No**

If No, explain why:

4. How well did *you* work with everyone in your group?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

5. Overall, how would you rate *your* performance in this case?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

6. What praise or criticism do you have for other group members? What are your thoughts about the case?
