



Tech 2025 Workshop: Silicon Valley & Universal Basic Income Group/Team Activity by Adam Simpson

Part 1: Everyone is divided into four groups:

- 1. Group 1:** You're working class employees, with precarious economic standing. Your job options have ranged from part-time to temporary contract work. The service sector is a somewhat reliable sector of employment, but due to the increasing amount of people in your socioeconomic group looking for work, wages remain stagnant and inconsistent. The skills you gained at university have been rendered obsolete by technological advances. Those jobs that remain for humans in what was once "your field" are few and far between.
- 2. Group 2:** You're middle class, full-time, white collar workers. You have jobs that for longer and more consistently than peers in Group 1. But you do have peers, perhaps family members that have lost their jobs recently. Furthermore, there are rumors in the economy that more firms are investigating adopting technologies, due to belt tightening, that could see large numbers of people in your income group displaced from their particular fields. You're considering how you might learn new skills in order to make a transition, but even that seems like a risk.
- 3. Group 3:** You're the policymakers. You have constituents who want the government to prioritize job creation. Some constituents believe you're not doing enough. Some believe you're doing too little. Furthermore your relationship with the business community is strained, and being honest you're concerned that losing their trust could mean a well-funded competitor in your upcoming election. On the one hand, if you can't stay in office, you can't help your constituents. On the other, if you can't help your constituents while you're in office, then what's the point?
- 4. Group 4:** You're the business elite. The economic downturn has you concerned. With jobs continuously influx and wages depressed, flagging economic consumption is harming companies' ability to remain profitable. There are social movements that are clamoring for higher taxes on businesses, and policymakers that are considering onerous regulations that would hamper your productivity. Of course the current situation is untenable, but if there are compromises to be made you'll have to face your shareholders about your strategy.

20 minutes:

Identify the following for your given group

- What are your short-term interests?
- What are your long-term interests?
- How do you think this constituency would rank (from 1-10) the following:
 - Happiness today.
 - Predicted happiness in 10 years.
- How do you think this group diagnoses the overall system's problems?
- Is there anything that you believe other groups could do to change your current states and future states?
- If changes were being made to the economic/political/social system, what would be your "must-haves" and what would be your "redlines"? What could you compromise on?

Part 2: (20 minutes)

Bargain! Split up into groups of four with representatives from each group and create the 21st century New Deal. The policymakers must propose the new arrangements and policies, the other three will provide input. The policymakers will decide ultimately what the grand bargain is and they will report back to the rest of us what kind of new deal they end up with. (And then I'll ask the rest of the group if they'll win re-election!)

Understand: If groups 1 and 2 aren't satisfied they could vote out group 3 in favor of a more radical candidate, which could be bad for group 4. If group 4 isn't satisfied, they could abscond from the country with their tax dollars and create economic havoc. If group 3 isn't satisfied, well, they're politicians. I suppose they could write a very unfavorable memoir. Bottom line: *Do your best to come to an agreement, but don't fold on your group's interests!*

Part 3: (20 Minutes) Report back on what kind of "New Deal" we all ended up with.

Conclusion.