



Imagine a society where a pandemic wipes out all people over the age of 20. Without a functioning police force or government, there is anarchy. Total lawlessness has overwhelmed the community.

Read the scenario below and work out how you would bring back peace and safety to your community.

Scenario

A catastrophic event has occurred. Over the past four weeks a global pandemic has wiped out all people over the age of 20.

Some key things have happened:

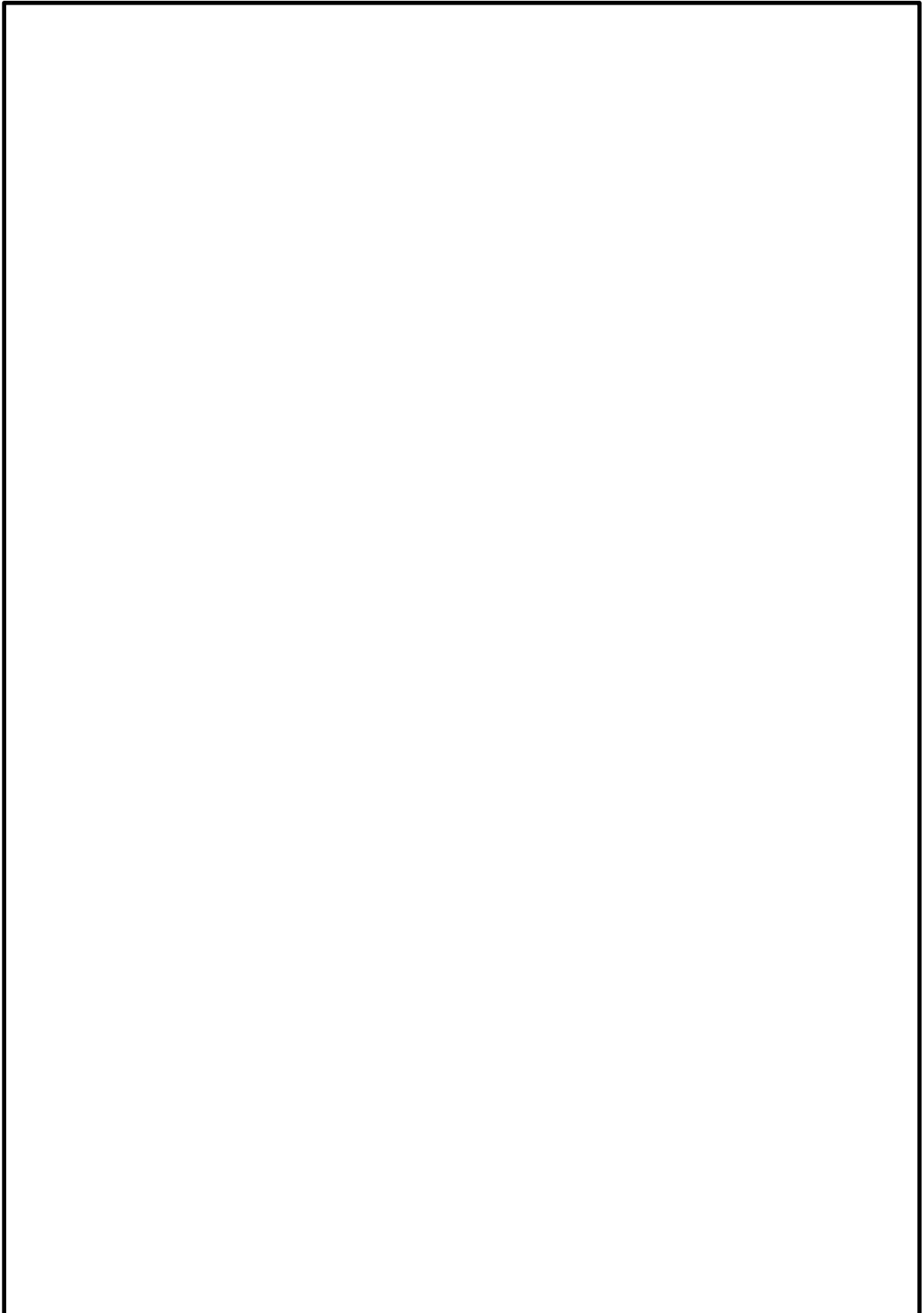
- Only you and the other teenagers of the neighbourhood have survived the pandemic. Outside of your community you are unaware of any survivors and if so, what condition they are in.
- All the government leaders, judges and police have been wiped out.
- Everyone is so fearful that they have gone into survival mode by raiding shops, houses and nursing homes. Everyone is looking after themselves and taking what they can to survive.
- There is no internet or phone reception. The only contact with the outside world is the regular food and supplies that are air dropped each week onto the local oval.
- Luckily there is still electricity and fresh water .

You and the other teenagers in the neighbourhood must take control. Without the police, government and courts to provide order in the community, a new system of rules needs to be adopted. You decide you need someone to lead the neighbourhood. This person will have the power to introduce new rules. They will also have the power to ensure people follow those rules.

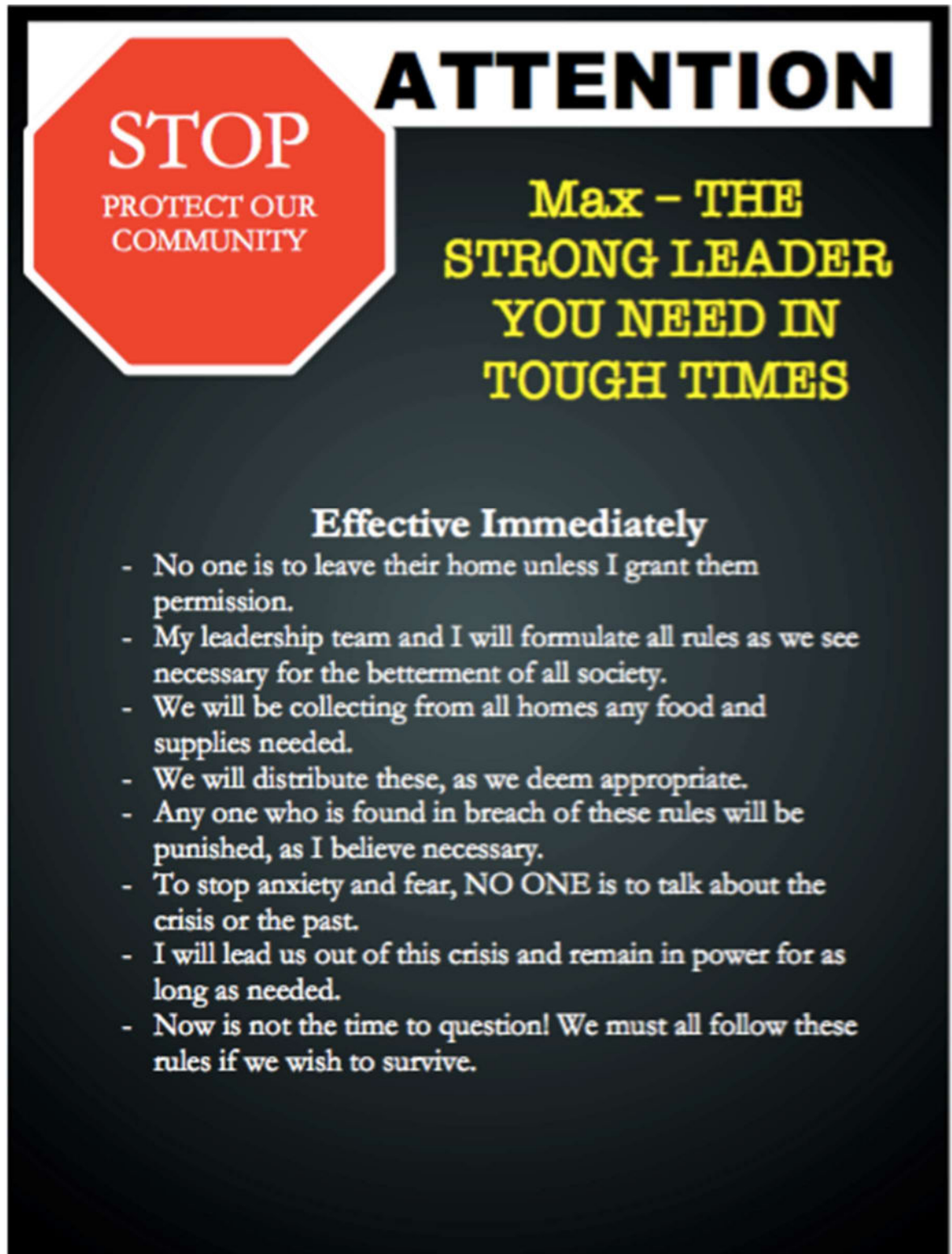
1. If you were to take charge of your neighbourhood, identify the rules you would introduce.

These rules need to address how you would deal with conflicts and how you would enforce the laws.

2. Create a poster that you could print out and put on telegraph poles around your neighbourhood that highlights your new rules and why you would be a good leader.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to create a poster. The box is oriented vertically and occupies most of the page below the instruction.

3. Max lives near you and also wants to lead your neighbourhood. Max is the leader of a local gang that has stolen a lot of food and supplies from the empty nursing homes. There are rumours that Max is a tough leader who uses violence to get his way. He has written out the below pamphlet.



STOP
PROTECT OUR
COMMUNITY

ATTENTION

**Max - THE
STRONG LEADER
YOU NEED IN
TOUGH TIMES**

Effective Immediately

- No one is to leave their home unless I grant them permission.
- My leadership team and I will formulate all rules as we see necessary for the betterment of all society.
- We will be collecting from all homes any food and supplies needed.
- We will distribute these, as we deem appropriate.
- Any one who is found in breach of these rules will be punished, as I believe necessary.
- To stop anxiety and fear, NO ONE is to talk about the crisis or the past.
- I will lead us out of this crisis and remain in power for as long as needed.
- Now is not the time to question! We must all follow these rules if we wish to survive.

Although Max's rules will bring order to your community, what are some possible consequences that could be harmful to the society?

Rule of Law Principles

The rule of law is at the heart of Australia's legal system and holds that:

- All persons and organisations, including those in power are subject to and accountable to the law.
- The law is clear, known, and enforced.
- The court system is independent and resolves disputes in a fair and public manner.
- All persons are presumed innocent until proven otherwise by a court.
- No person shall be arbitrarily arrested, imprisoned, or deprived of their property.
- Punishment must be determined by a court and be proportionate to the offence.

4. Choose one of these principles and explain why it is important in a society.

5. What additional rules would you add to your poster to incorporate principles of the rule of law?

6. Assess whether Max's rules are consistent with the principles that surround the rule of law.

Explain how survivors in the neighbourhood will react to Max's leadership plans.

Further Resources:

- www.ruleoflaw.org.au
- <https://www.ag.gov.au/About/Pages/rule-of-law.aspx>
- <http://www.cefa.org.au/ccf/rule-law-during-coronavirus-pandemic>
- <https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/80-organisations-politicians-and-journalists-call-for-swift-actions-on-hungary/>
- https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/covid19?fbclid=IwAR0k4b5jQ9UoB_3hs_iViKaV_pnrLh1a5opYaWyn6nmNjtxP-sRDac_GCr4