**Problem and Solution Innovation**

*Group Assignment and Presentation (2 weeks)*

Divide your class into groups of 3-5 students, depending on class size. Groups must work together to select a ‘problem’ related to natural disasters in the context of planetary health, which they will work to devise a ‘solution’ to. In 2 weeks, dedicate a class session or portion of class to having a TedTalk-style conference where each group presents their problem and proposed solution, along with how to make that solution a reality, as though they were pitching their idea to funders. Each group has a maximum of 10 minutes to present.

Before finalizing their topic, groups must receive approval from the instructor. When they seek approval, the instructor should ask questions to stimulate critical thinking. Students do not need to have decided upon a proposed solution at this time, but should have thought through some possibilities. Sample questions are included below:

Questions to stimulate critical thinking

* Can you explain this issue in your own words?
* What is your motivation for selecting this problem?
* What evidence or data exists to argue that this problem needs a solution?
* How do you think this issue is viewed by those with whom you disagree?
* Could you elaborate on that point?
* What are your assumptions that inform the design of the solution?

Ideally, you can bring in other teachers to serve as ‘funders or judges’ who will sit in the audience during the presentations and vote on the ‘best’ proposed solution and award ‘funding’ to that group at the end. If you are not able to bring in outside judges, you can have the whole class conduct a blind vote to identify the group with the best solution. Students may use props and other supporting elements to evoke an emotional response in the ‘judges’ and win the vote.