**Instructions for Role Playing Exercise: Soda Tax Discussion**

This exercise requires 10-15 minutes. Print out the role playing cards (included in a separate document on the zip drive) and cut them up, so that you can hand out each role description is on a separate slip of paper. Split up participants into groups of five, and hand out the roles so that each person in the group has a slip of paper with a different viewpoint on a soda tax. Instruct participants to have a discussion in their group, with each person representing the role they were given. If there is time, after some discussion, ask people to switch slips of paper with another person in their group, so that they have the opportunity to represent a different point of view.

Debrief:

Ask participants to explore what it was like to have this discussion when everyone had a different view point.

* What was it like to represent a view point that may have differed from your own?
* Was it hard to have a conversation where no one exactly agreed?
* Were group members listening to each other collaboratively or competitively?
* How does this experience influence your own opinion?
* How does it experience the way you might express your opinion to others in the future?

I believe that all sales tax is bad. Poor people pay more for everything that has sales tax than anyone else and so sales tax is inherently unfair. I don’t have anything against soda per se, but I am against sales tax.

I believe sales tax on the amount of sugar in soda is an excellent idea. Companies that make soda will use less sugar in order to be less expensive and win market share, and advertisers will tout how little sugar their soda has. It will become cool to buy sugar free drinks.

I believe young people will be unfairly targeted by this tax, as they are the ones most likely to drink sugary soda. This takes away one of their few pleasures and is just not fair. Let people who drink alcohol, which is actually dangerous, pay a lot more.

I believe this is a good tax because it addresses one of the leading causes of obesity and it will help people become healthier. The government should make it difficult for people to obtain anything that is harmful to their health and soda is way too easy to buy.

I believe people should be able to eat and drink what they want. If they want to put junk in their bodies, that is their business and not the business of government. People can marry who they want, take whatever drugs they want, drink and smoke what they want. Government should stay out of people’s personal lives.