

Coach-Only Answer Key

EV Policy – Critical Thinking (Lower-Literacy Version)

How to Use This Guide (Coach Reminder)

- Do **not** correct learners' opinions.
 - Do **not** push them toward a conclusion.
 - Your role is to **slow the conversation**, point back to the text, and ask “*Where do you see that?*”
 - Silence, uncertainty, or “I’m not sure” are **successful outcomes** in this lesson.
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Part 1: Noticing Possible Conflict

(Primary article: proposed changes to EV sales mandate)

1. *What is changing in the EV policy?*

Coach look-for:

- Learner recognizes **review, pause, or proposed changes**, not a final decision.
- If learner says “the mandate is ending,” gently ask:

“Can you find where it says final or permanent?”

Conflict signal: confusion between *proposal* and *outcome*.

2. *Who is speaking in the article?*

Coach look-for:

- Government officials
- Automakers or industry groups
- Committees or departments

Conflict signal: narrow speaker range → power concentration.

3. Who is talked about, but not quoted directly?

Coach look-for:

- Consumers
- Drivers
- Rural or lower-income buyers

Conflict signal: people affected but not represented.

4. Does the article explain why the changes are happening now?

Coach look-for:

- Trade pressure
- Sales not meeting targets
- Industry strain

Conflict signal: urgency without full explanation can increase mistrust.

5. Are the same problems mentioned more than once?

Coach look-for:

- Demand
- Cost
- Infrastructure
- Compliance difficulty

Conflict signal: repetition without resolution.

6. Does the article describe clear next steps, or mostly delays and reviews?

Coach look-for:

- “Review,” “pause,” “consider,” “on the table”

Conflict signal: process stalls can keep conflict alive.

7. Do some groups seem to have more power than others?

Coach look-for:

- Automakers able to lobby or delay
- Government adjusting timelines

Conflict signal: imbalance where one group absorbs less risk.

8. Are any voices missing, such as drivers or small communities?

Coach look-for:

- Charging access
- Cold climate issues
- Rural distances

Conflict signal: missing lived experience.

9. Does the issue seem to divide people into sides?

Coach look-for:

- Industry vs government
- Climate goals vs affordability

Conflict signal: framing as opposing camps instead of shared constraints.

10. After reading, do you feel more clear or more confused?

Coach look-for:

- Confusion is **valid** and informative.

Conflict signal: rising complexity without clarity.

Coach tip: If learners say “confused,” you can say:

“That’s useful information. Confusion often shows unresolved conflict.”

Part 2 (Optional): Looking for Signs of Hope

(Second article: new auto strategy and trade-offs)

1. Do different sides agree on any basic facts?

Coach look-for:

- Transportation emissions are high
- EV adoption matters
- Change is needed

Hope signal: shared reality.

2. Do they agree on at least one shared goal?

Coach look-for:

- Reducing emissions
- Keeping industry viable
- Avoiding public backlash

Hope signal: common destination, different routes.

3. Is the disagreement about how to act, not about who matters?

Coach look-for:

- Methods debated, not people dismissed

Hope signal: legitimacy of all participants.

4. Are trade-offs or compromises discussed?

Coach look-for:

- Ending mandate but strengthening standards
- Rebates paired with efficiency rules

Hope signal: movement instead of stalemate.

5. *Are questions still being asked in a calm way?*

Coach look-for:

- Experts expressing doubt without ridicule

Hope signal: space for learning.

6. *Does the article suggest changes can be adjusted later?*

Coach look-for:

- “Depends on,” “will be finalized,” “still being worked out”

Hope signal: flexibility instead of rigidity.

7. *Does slowing down seem allowed, not punished?*

Coach look-for:

- Pause framed as caution, not failure

Hope signal: reduced pressure → less escalation.

8. *After reading, do you feel cooperation is still possible?*

Coach look-for:

- Hesitant “maybe” is enough.

Hope signal: absence of hopelessness.

Redirection Phrases for Coaches (Very Useful)

Use these verbatim if needed:

- “Let’s go back to the sentence that made you think that.”
- “Do we see that clearly, or are we filling in a gap?”
- “Is this describing a decision, or a discussion?”
- “Who benefits if this stays unresolved?”
- “What would help reduce pressure here?”

Final Coach Insight

If a learner finishes this lesson **less certain but more careful**, the lesson worked.

This is not about EVs.

It’s about learning how to **step out of conflict loops** before they harden.