**Reading-Based Discussion Questions:**

1. **Why is it important to have researchers from different nations on the eXXpedition voyage?**
   1. **Suggested topics to discuss:**

* Having people from different home countries brings many different perspectives. Each person can have input on how their work will benefit their country as well as the world.
* An island nation may look at the ocean differently than a bigger, inland nation.
* Getting different perspectives could provide insight on how plastic is used in each country and how it could be reduced.

1. **Microplastics are released by the breakdown of many plastic products, including water bottles and shopping bags. What are some other plastic products that can end up as microplastics in the environment? What are the best ways to reduce this plastic pollution?**
   1. **Suggested topics to discuss:**

* Food wrappers, straws, cups, plates, bottle caps, nets, toys, cigarette butts, etc.
* The best way to reduce plastic pollution is to reduce our use of plastics, reuse the plastics we do use, and recycle the ones that we don’t reuse. We can also volunteer to clean up plastic waste we find and dispose of waste properly.

1. **Light pollution can cause millions of birds to die during their migration. Why should we care about this?**
   1. **Suggested topics to discuss:**
      * Ecosystems are all connected, so even if we do not care about birds, when birds die it can lead to other species dying as well.
      * All species matter, so anything we can do to protect other species is the right thing to do
      * When birds die in the city they can spread disease and are unpleasant to have on the streets.
      * Birds are some of the species we get to see the most of in cities so losing them brings us further away from wildlife.
2. **How might more research help reduce Utah’s poor air quality?**
   1. **Suggested topics to discuss:**

* The more we know about what is causing Utah’s poor air quality, the better equipped we are to make decisions about policies that will help reduce dangerous emissions.
* Enforcing policies that are scientifically proven to reduce Utah’s emissions should incentivize citizens, communities, businesses, and corporations to act appropriately.

1. **The Utah Clean Air Partnership reaches and educates the public about pollution issues and policy through online advertisements, television commercials and billboards. What are some other ways you can think of to educate members of the public about this global environmental challenge?**
   1. **Suggested topics to discuss:**
      * Write a letter to the editor to a well-known local newspaper.
      * Talk to people in your immediate community (family, friends, school mates, teachers, etc.)
      * Make an art piece about the issue (whether it be watercolor, sculpture, poetry, music, dance, etc.) to reach audiences who maybe don’t typically think about them.
      * Talk about the issues on a local podcast or radio show.
      * Do a puppet show for kids.
      * Give a presentation at a school or community event.