The Future of Airbag Technology

Background
Even though airbags protect drivers and passengers in automobiles involved in an accident, they can cause injury or death if the right materials or construction are not used. Your teacher will assign you to one of four stakeholder groups. In your group, you will decide on a list of criteria necessary for development of new airbag technology.

Objective
To analyze needed criteria for the future of airbag technology from the point of view of a stakeholder group.

Procedure
Part I: Research

1. After viewing the NBC news video about the expanded Takata airbag recall you will be assigned to one of four groups:
   a) consumers (purchasers of cars)
   b) airbag manufacturers
   c) automobile manufacturers
   d) government regulators

2. With your small group, discuss the video you just viewed. What criteria for airbag development were ignored when the Takata technology was developed?

3. With your small group, read the following two articles:
   - Maker of Airbags Linked To 8M Recalled Vehicles Used Unusual Chemical Explosive for Inflation
   - How Airbags are supposed to Work

4. Now, from the point of view of your group, brainstorm a list of criteria that are needed for new airbag technology. Consider social, cultural and environmental impacts of the new technology as you discuss. Record these criteria on a chart to share with the class.

5. Share your criteria with the rest of the class. What are the common criteria all groups agree on? Why? What are the criteria that differ between groups? Why?

6. Discuss with your class the similarities and differences you see in the lists.