

Name _____

Date _____

Sample Persuasive Essay

To Drill or Not to Drill?

The writer includes a title in the form of a question.

The writer sets up the issue.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is home to caribou, moose, musk oxen, wolves, foxes, grizzlies, polar bears and migratory birds. Leaders in the oil industry believe the refuge is the perfect site for the "environmentally sensitive exploration" of oil. Environmentalists are wondering: What will become of the wildlife?

The writer briefly states the different opinions on the issue or topic.

President George W. Bush, oil-industry leaders and others believe that Americans will benefit from the oil that lies under the snow-filled surface of the refuge. In their opinion, the oil will help reduce high fuel prices and decrease our need for oil from other countries.

The writer explains the opposing viewpoint.

The writer provides facts to support his or her opinion.

I believe the cost of such drilling is too high. I agree with environmentalists who fear that drilling will disturb the migration of more than 130,000 caribou. Each spring, the caribou travel 400 miles to give birth on the coastal plain. In this area of the refuge, there are fewer predators. In addition, experts say that the oil in the area adds up to less than a six-month supply. Is such a small amount of oil worth the risk drilling poses to these animals?

The writer explains his or her opinion.

The writer provides a suggestion about how to solve the problem.

Americans are the largest consumers of oil. Instead of drilling for oil, we should decrease our need for foreign oil simply by using less. We must all work together to cut back on the oil we use in order to preserve the wildlife of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The writer ends his or her paper with an appeal to the reader to help solve the problem.