

ESLP 82 In-Class Diagnostic Test

Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Read the following article and then plan and write a 1-2 page essay that answers the question below. You may write on the article and/or use the colored paper to prepare your essay. You may also use a dictionary. Please write your essay on the lined paper provided.

Question: *Do you think the Greenwich Audubon Sanctuary should have held the deer hunt in the sanctuary?* Explain your position using ideas from the article and your own ideas. Also include in-text citations and a Works Cited entry using MLA.

Of Deer and Men: How a Hunt has Upset a Suburb

by Alexandra Marks, published in the Christian Science Monitor (a daily newspaper) on January 6, 2004, page 2.

Along the quiet, leafy trails of the Greenwich Audubon Sanctuary - 285 acres in one of Connecticut's most elite suburbs - a fierce battle is taking place about nature, and how best to keep its balance. The struggle has set conservationists against animal rights activists and revealed the challenge of how to help nature be successful in cities and suburbs. At the center of the dispute are white-tailed deer - symbols of American wildlife and abundant, hungry animals who can chew through little oak trees and wildflowers at alarming rates. The Audubon sanctuary, located near two highways and dozens of elegant mansions, has one of the highest numbers of deer in Connecticut. That has led to significant degradation of wildlife on the property. Gone completely are the oaks and hickory trees. It's impossible now to find lady-slippers and trilliums, two delicate, endangered flowers. Finding their habitats chewed up, a number of bird species have also flown away.

So for the first time in its history, and after two years of studying choices, Greenwich Audubon approved a deer hunt on its property for members of the Greenwich Sportsmen & Landowners Association. No guns are allowed - only bows and arrows. And the resulting deer meat is being donated to feed the local hungry. "The bottom line is that this sanctuary is being degraded and destroyed as a result of an overpopulation of deer," says Tom Baptist, the executive director of Audubon Connecticut. "Humans have destroyed the predators, or animals that used to hunt and eat deer," he says. "This is simply an effort to restore the balance so the full range of plants and animals can live well here."

But animal rights activists, like Priscilla Feral, the president of Friends of Animals in nearby Darien, don't believe the argument. To them, the hunt is not only a cruel sport, but, they argue, adds to nature's imbalance by leaving a larger proportion of female deer, who then reproduce at a more rapid rate, make less effective the overall goal. And they argue against the studies that conclude that managing deer populations has helped natural areas to recover. "This is just an excuse by hunters to say they're doing some kind of civic duty, when it really is recreation." "We're talking about a sanctuary, a place of safety, that was created with membership donations," she says. "It's supposed to be a place of safety. You don't start shooting deer and call it a sanctuary." At first, Friends of Animals urged Audubon to cancel the hunt, and they offered to give food banks vegetarian meals if they'd reject the meat. Audubon refused, and the offer was also rejected by local food banks, who are eager for any kind of help to feed the poor. So now, they've turned to urging people to withdraw their support for Audubon.

Audubon's Tom Baptist, who's been walking the trails at the Greenwich Audubon Sanctuary since he was an 11-year-old, trusts the studies that have been done, and is confident the hunt will help the habitat. He's hoping that the controversy goes away, and that lady-slippers will soon bloom again near the sanctuary's leafy trails.

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Directions: Reread the first draft of your essay that you wrote in class, assess it, and then revise and edit it to improve it. Then rewrite your essay on the lined paper provided. You may use a dictionary, grammar book, or reference book. Please do NOT use any additional readings or get help from anyone else.

After you have finished rewriting your essay, please complete the questions on the next page.

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How well do you think you did on your final version (second draft) of your essay? What do you think are your specific strengths and weaknesses in this essay?

What difficulties and/or problems did you experience when you wrote the first draft of your essay in class?

How did you remedy or fix these problems in your final version of your essay?
