**DO WE WANT WOLVES HERE?**

**Objective: You will be able to express and explain the pleasure and problems of living in wolf territory from different points of view.**

**Background: There are people who share habitat with wolves revere these animals; admire their strength of pack, beauty, mystery, and work hard to protect their place on earth. Other people complain about the wolves affecting the deer and elk herds in Wisconsin, the killing of hunting dogs and attacks on domestic animals on farms.(sheep, goats, horses and cattle etc.) So far there have not been any attacks on people.
So, although wolves can sometimes co-exist well with people this is not always the case. You will examine the wolf issue from many viewpoints and recognize that simple solutions seldom exist in controversial issues. You will prepare an opening statement and research some facts and data to share following the role card you receive to debate the wolf issue in class.**

**Situation: You are about to receive a role playing card related to the wolf issue. You will then be given time to prepare and research your role to attend a mock town hall meeting about: Do we want wolves here?**

**The scene is that we currently have wolves that live in and near our homes. Now a citizens group wants to approach the WI DNR about releasing a pack of wolves in the area from a place where they have become overcrowded in Wisconsin. This citizens group includes land owners, developers, camp ground owners, hunters, and more.**

**Opposition to the wolf pack release sprang up overnight. Farmers and horse ranch owners, ATV riders, some dog owners, hunters, and hikers and homeowners are among those who object. Tempers are flaring but each side has agreed to listen to each others position in a town meeting.**

**They have invited experts: a local wildlife manager, US Fish and Wildlife officer, Native American Tribal leader, an elk biologist ect. To provide information about the suitability of modern day Sawyer Co as wolf habitat. The experts will discuss the effects of releasing wolves in the area on a local ecology and whether the local habitat will ensure survival of the pack. They will consider the questions of territory and other wildlife populations affected.**

**The meeting promises to be lively. A radio announcer, a TV reporter, and newspaper writer will be present to take down notes and interview citizens at the meeting.**

**Next you will hear about the roles you can play in this debate and chose one…first come first serve so have a second or third choice ready.**

**REQUIREMENTS**

**-Look up any interest groups that have the same beliefs about wolves that your role has. Print off 2 articles from the media.**

**-List problems/benefits of the release of wolves based on your role and bring this to the meeting.**

**-Research factual information to use in the meeting (facts, quotes, statistics, and research data ect)**

**-Use props like graphs, maps, and illustrations that you can show to the whole meeting.**

**-Present a 1 minute opening statement, this will introduce your role and how you feel and an overview of the info you will present during the meeting.**

**-You must actively participate in the meeting. Remember there are no winners or losers the meeting is for listening to all sides.**

**AFTER THE MEETING :You will be asked to write a summary of the arguments for and against wolves.**

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| PRO WOLFBUILDERWolves could bring tourists to the area. That might create a need for more hotels, restaurants, houses, cabins, and souvenir shops. You could make a lot of money building these facilities.  | PRO WOLFMOTEL OWNER-Wolf enthusiasts will need a place to stay for the night. Your business could improve drastically with the higher wolf population viewing in the area.  |
| PRO WOLFCAMPGROUNDWolves might bring campers to town as they would be in search of a wild area to camp in the state. Your business could get a real boost.  | PRO WOLFNATURALIST Wolves are exciting large animals. You may be able to start leading wolf howling surveys with the public, photography tours, and more. Which brings in more people then going and photographing coyotes right now.  |
| PRO WOLFHOMEOWNERSYou live close to the area where the wolves may be released. You like the idea of keeping our area wild and would enjoy seeing the elk from your windows and deck.  | PRO WOLFTHE MAYOR OF TOWNWolves could be the best thing that every happened to this town. They might bring in tourists and permanent residents who would spend money at local gas stations, restaurants and stores. If they are a big enough attraction the town will grow and prosper and you could get re-elected.  |
| CON GROUPFARMERS AND HORSE RANCHERSWolves might seek to eat your livelihood when they cannot find wild animals to prey upon. This could kill a prized animal worth lots of money that the DNR would not pay you what its worth. You would have to build fenced in areas closer to the barn and install more lighting and spend more hours or labor looking over your animals.  | CONGROUPHUNTERSWolves prey upon white tailed deer a big game animal with a strong hunting tradition in Wisconsin. You have seen the impact of prey species like the wolf on newborn fawns, and adult deer in other areas. You also are involved in hunting with dogs. You have to be concerned about the safety of your dogs when out in the woods and not lose one of your companions.  |
| CON GROUPATV RiderYou enjoy the year round trail systems of the northwoods. You are also now open in some areas to roads. Snowmobiles, ATV or dirt bike you ride them all. All are said to negatively affect wolves by disturbing them and their territory.  | CON GROUPPet ownerThis is a small town area. Where often dogs and cats roam free for all or part of a day. Will the newly introduced wolves possibly breed with these roaming animals and create hybrids, will the wolves attack and kill some of the pet animals. Will pet owners have to kennel and tie up pets. Will people walking their pets be attacked?  |
| CON GROUP**Homeowners**Wolves bring fear to the minds of many people. They could turn up in your back yard where your kids play. Might the high amount of recreational use in this area make it hard for wolves to live here? Would having them around make dawn and dusk dangerous times to be outside on the land I own?  | EXPERTUS FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICERYou are familiar with the habitat of the Northwood’s as wolf habitat. You know that the abundance of county, state and national forest land would offer good space, cover, food and territory for more wolves. Be prepared to answer questions about how many wolves this habitat might support.  |
| EXPERTSTATE WI DNR WILDLIFE MANAGERYou know the difficulties and benefits of releasing wolves. You also know that the state has its hands tied in controlling the wolf population through any regulated hunting or trapping of wolves as they are an endangered species in the US. Be prepared to answer questions about the role of the DNR now and in the future of wolf management.  | EXPERTWOLF BIOLOGISTYou are an all-round wolf expert. You know their behavior, habitat, needs, anatomy and esthetic value. You work for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and have over 35 years of expert observation, tracking, and data collection on wolves. Feel free to support any of the others in this group with your expertise.  |
| EXPERTTRIBAL LEADERYou represent the Native Americans that live in the area. You understand the significance of wolves to your culture. Be prepared to talk about how wolves have been a part of your culture historically, how they are depicted and how you feel about the release of wolves in the area.  | MEDIATV REPORTERYou live in the city of green bay not in the areas were the wolves will be released. The issues are quite clear to you, and you’re a bit condescending in your attitude toward the locals. Your manner is business like and you’re a bit intrusive when you are on air live with the TV station. You can have your own opinion but you must also report on all sides of this issue.  |

Wolf Town Hall Meeting Rubric (30)

Name Role Notecard/Info Sheet(5) Opening Statement (10) Discussion (15)

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