

Student's Name

Teacher's Name

English 10 Period 1

February 23, 2010

Revised Thesis Topic: Oil Drilling the the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

I. THESIS STATEMENT: The effects of drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are more harmful than helpful.

II. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:

- A. The high cost of drilling in the tundra would not be very profitable.
  - 1. The only way to export oil in the refuge is to send it down the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which is easily disrupted and hard to repair.
    - a. Direct Quote: "According to a study done by Amoco in 1999, transferring the oil through the pipeline would cost more than actually buying oil from the Middle East" (Smith 87).
  - 2. Technology advances in drilling for oil make it cheaper to produce oil.
    - a. Paraphrase: In order to attain oil the U.S. needs, it would be cheaper to drill in other places since the refuge is hard to access (Robinson 19).
- B: Drilling would not allow the U.S. to become independent from the Middle East's oil supply.
  - 1. There is not enough oil to produce the amount of oil the U.S. consumes.
    - a. Direct Quote: "It is estimated that the refuge will only supply 300 barrels a day" (Herken 52).
  - 2. The U.S does not need to separate itself from the foreign oil market because no one country or company can cut off the United State's oil supply.
    - a. Paraphrase: OPEC only controls one fourth of the oil the U.S. consumes (Marks 25).
- C. The wildlife in the tundra would greatly suffer.
  - 1. In the area around the oil fields, plants cannot grow, and tundra plants are very fragile.
    - a. Direct Quote: "Most take years to recover from being stepped on once" (Hart 84).
  - 2. Animals try to avoid the area around the oil fields.
    - a. They do not like the noise and activity. This makes the refuge even smaller because they stay out of certain areas.
    - b. The refuge contains the porcupine caribou birthing grounds. The caribou are an endangered species.
  - 3. Drilling for oil causes pollution.
    - a. Giant clouds of smoke pout out of processing facilities.
    - b. A large amount of hazardous waste is created from the drilling process.
  - 4. There is always a risk of an oil spill, is the worst thing that could happen to the tundra.
    - a. The oil can kill animals.
    - b. Paraphrase: It takes at least ten years to clean up a contaminated area (Carlson 43).

III. Conclusion/Solution

A. Drilling for oil in Alaska would not be beneficial. It would not be profitable and would not change the U.S. dependence on the Middle East. It would also devastate the refuge.

B. The tundra is our world's last remote, unspoiled land region. Let's not spoil it.