

## **APPENDIX C:**

# ***Investigating and Evaluating Environmental Issues and Actions Resources (IEEIA)***

Issue Analysis: Definition of Terms

Environmental Beliefs and Values: Where Do You Stand –  
Belief Statements

Environmental Issues Value Descriptors

What *Are* the Values?

Stakeholders, Beliefs, and Values Chart

Rules for Writing Research Questions for Environmental Issue  
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## *Investigating and Evaluating Environmental Issues and Actions*

### **ISSUE ANALYSIS: DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Event:** A natural or man-made occurrence or happening.

**Problem:** An interaction between humans and the environment, which threatens or puts at risk something of value to humans.

**Issue:** An environmental problem about which individuals and/or groups disagree. The disagreement may be over how the problem is to be solved... or it may be over whether or not the problem is, in fact, a problem. People disagree because of differing beliefs and values.

**Players/Stakeholders:** Those individuals, groups, organizations, and/or institutions, which have a role in the problem or its solution.

**Positions:** The “stands” of the respective players concerning a problem or its solution; what the different players think should be done to resolve the issue.

**Beliefs:** Those ideas, whether they are true or untrue, held by the players concerning the issue or its components.

**Values:** Guides which tend to direct human behavior and which tend to reflect the relative importance of beliefs in a given situation; the worth a person (or group) places on something.

**Alternative Solutions:** The various strategies which are available to individuals or groups in the resolution of an issue. Solutions are typically chosen in accordance with a particular set of beliefs and values.

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# *Investigating and Evaluating Environmental Issues and Actions*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BELIEFS AND VALUES**

### **Where Do You Stand?**

**Directions:** Circle the response that best reflects how you feel about each belief statement.

1. **The killing of deer by hunters plays an important part in keeping deer herds healthy.**

*Strongly Disagree*    *Disagree*    *Neutral*    *Agree*    *Strongly Agree*

2. **Human females should not have more than two children.**

*Strongly Disagree*    *Disagree*    *Neutral*    *Agree*    *Strongly Agree*

3. **United States industries located in China should be required to follow U.S. environmental standards.**

*Strongly Disagree*    *Disagree*    *Neutral*    *Agree*    *Strongly Agree*

4. **The recycling of metals such as aluminum and steel should be mandatory, even if it is not always profitable.**

*Strongly Disagree*    *Disagree*    *Neutral*    *Agree*    *Strongly Agree*

5. **All pollution standards should be relaxed in order to get better gas mileage in automobiles.**

*Strongly Disagree*    *Disagree*    *Neutral*    *Agree*    *Strongly Agree*

6. **People who have two or more cats as pets should keep them indoors, because the cat is, by its nature, a predator.**

*Strongly Disagree*    *Disagree*    *Neutral*    *Agree*    *Strongly Agree*

7. **We should continue to build nuclear power plants in order to produce needed electrical energy.**

*Strongly Disagree*    *Disagree*    *Neutral*    *Agree*    *Strongly Agree*

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## *Investigating and Evaluating Environmental Issues and Actions*

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES VALUE DESCRIPTORS**

The descriptors listed below may be helpful as you analyze issues. These statements attempt to name and define values which may be held by individuals. The definition, as well as the list itself, should not be considered complete. They are simply tools to help you in a rather complex task!

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<b>VALUE</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Aesthetic:</b>	the appreciation of form, composition and color through the human senses.
<b>Economic:</b>	the use and exchange of money, materials, and/or services.
<b>Ecological:</b>	pertaining to natural biological systems and principles.
<b>Educational:</b>	concerning the accumulation, use, and communication of knowledge.
<b>Egocentric:</b>	pertaining to a focus on self-centered needs and fulfillment.
<b>Environmental:</b>	pertaining to human activity activities in terms of interactions with natural resources, e.g., plant and animal species, air, water, soil, etc.
<b>Ethical/Moral:</b>	pertaining to present and future human responsibilities, rights and wrongs, and ethical standards.
<b>Ethnocentric:</b>	pertaining to the traditions, customs and shared perspectives of people.
<b>Health &amp; Safety:</b>	the maintenance of positive human physical conditions.
<b>Legal:</b>	relating to national, state, or local laws; law enforcement; law suits.
<b>Political:</b>	the activities, functions, and policies of governments and their agencies.
<b>Recreational:</b>	pertaining to human leisure activities.
<b>Religious:</b>	the use of belief systems based on faith or dogma.
<b>Scientific:</b>	concerning the process of empirical research; knowledge gained by systematic study.
<b>Social:</b>	pertaining to shared human empathy, feelings, and status.
<b>Technological:</b>	concerning the use of technology for human/societal goals.

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# Investigating and Evaluating Environmental Issues and Actions

## WHAT ARE THE VALUES?

**Directions:** Read each of the statements carefully. Analyze each one and identify the main value reflected in the statement. Write the name of that value in the space provided. You may be asked to defend your answer. (Underlining the key words and phrases which influence your answers will be helpful in your defense).

1. Humans have a responsibility to manage natural resources wisely for the sake of future generations. \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you “get” poison ivy, you are in for a week of itching and misery. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Bible clearly states that Man is responsible for the welfare of the planet. \_\_\_\_\_
4. You can sell those tropical birds for a lot of money. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The game warden told my brother that it was illegal to hunt waterfowl in the spring in the United States. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Research on the grizzly bear shows that it needs an enormous amount of space in order to survive. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Wood ducks are beautiful birds. \_\_\_\_\_
8. I really enjoy going bird watching with my friends and classmates. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Bird watching has become a national pastime in the United States. \_\_\_\_\_
10. I don’t care what anybody says, I will kill a deer anytime I feel like it. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Swamps and marshes are important as sources of fresh water to plants and animals. \_\_\_\_\_
12. If we log a forest carefully, we can preserve the checks and balances that exist in that ecosystem. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Democrat and Republican representatives in Congress often disagree about environmental concerns. \_\_\_\_\_
14. The Germans have a tradition of a strong affection for forests. \_\_\_\_\_
15. When we were in the eighth grade, we learned a valuable lesson about preserving endangered species. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Players, Beliefs, and Values Chart (Student Page)

The Issue:

The Player & Position	Belief Statement(s)	Value(s)

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## RULES FOR WRITING RESEARCH QUESTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE INVESTIGATIONS

The **research questions** should:

- Always be stated in question form
- Always avoid simple “yes” or “no” answers. This is usually achieved by beginning with phrases, such as To what extent or In what ways
- Always indicate a population or area
- Always be derived from, and related to environmental issues
- Specify the variable(s) to be measured
- Specify a relationship between two variables
- Be important in an environment and in a social sense (to humans)

**Variables** that may be chosen to focus on in the students’ research question(s) may include one or more of the following:

- Knowledge of problems, issues, or solutions
- Opinions and attitudes related to problems, issues, or solutions
- Behaviors related to problems, issues, or solutions
- Physical characteristics associated with problems, issues, or solutions

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