

Wolf Reintroduction Final



Overview of the Assessment

Over the last two weeks of class, we will be researching, debating, and solving the issues related to the reintroduction of wolves in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

While our goal is to effectively debate the issue from the perspective of the groups we are assigned, the debate should be focused on something that is all-too-rare in American political life: finding a solution rather than deepening the political and partisan divide.



The Groups

The class will be divided into the following groups:

- National Park Service
- Radical Environmentalists
- Moderate Environmentalists
- Ranchers
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Hunters

Preparation Days

In preparation for the debate, students will:

- research the history of the wolf in Yellowstone from 1900-today.
- present an individual speech of 3-5 minutes covering the history, your group's position, and initial ideas for solutions.
- present a team speech of 3-5 minutes outlining your solution after listening to and meeting with the other groups.
- conduct a listening session (two days) overseen by the National Park Service who will question and challenge the groups on the science, economics, and politics of their solution.

Final

In the course of the final, students will conduct a model debate in an effort to develop a solution that satisfies as many of the interest groups and agencies as possible. Using both the tools of formal debate, unmoderated caucuses, and cross-examination, students will draft and vote on a series of proposals.

Evaluation of the final will rest on:

- participation in the speeches and caucuses.
- accurate representation of the group you have been assigned.
- Demonstrated willingness to, within the parameters of your viewpoint, work to solve the issue.