

To Drill or Not to Drill: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Environmental Geology 103

(30 points total)

This exercise is designed to investigate the controversial issues surrounding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). In this assignment, teams will discuss whether exploration and drilling for oil should be allowed on a portion of the refuge. Social, political, and scientific issues, with which different stakeholders must deal, are identified.

Teams will be placed in the role of one of the stakeholders. You are to prepare your PowerPoint Presentation and Position Statement Paper from the point of view of your assigned role. Your presentation will be designed to convince the jury (the class) that your position is the ONE and ONLY correct position. After everyone has presented their positions, the class will discuss the key points and opinion on what should be done.

Roles:

- Team 1: Conoco Philips and BP Exploration
- Team 2: United States Government Pro-Drilling
- Team 3: Inupiat Alaskan Natives
- Team 4: Gwich'in Alaskan Natives
- Team 5: Sierra Club
- Team 6: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

ASSIGNMENT:

Your task is to develop an understanding of your stakeholder's position by reviewing documents, photographs, reports, newspaper articles, statements from geologists, meeting proceedings, etc. Some of these resources are provided through the web sites listed at the end of your Department of the Interior letter. Feel free to conduct your own research, using Google, Yahoo, or whatever Internet search engine you prefer. Be wary of Wikipedia or other sites where information can be modified by anyone. Journal articles or educational (edu) sites are acceptable.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Position Statement Paper (20 points):** Based on your research you are to prepare a position statement that represents your stakeholder's position and what the next course of action should be with respect to drilling ANWR. Answer the questions provided within your Department of the Interior letter. This will also help your team in your preparation for the in-class discussions. Your paper should be **3-5 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font**.

Thoroughly answer the following questions in your position paper, keeping in mind YOUR ASSIGNED ROLE. Your position statement should be thorough and convincing, well researched, and summarize the ANWR drilling issue from your stakeholder's perspective.

General background: This is the introduction portion of your research paper and should only be 1-3 paragraphs in length.

- What geologic conditions set the stage for oil formation?
- How does oil form and how is it trapped?
- How do we know that ANWR has oil resources?
- What are renewable versus nonrenewable resources? Which is oil?
- What is short-term versus long-term as related to energy use?
- What is the Arctic Tundra, ecologically?
- What types of wildlife live in the Arctic Tundra?

Your position (based on your assigned role): Your primary assignment is to develop and present a thorough understanding of your position with respect to ANWR. Therefore, the bulk of your paper should discuss your stakeholder's opinion on what should be done with ANWR. Please use your stakeholder's letter from the Secretary of the Department of Interior, Jon Stewart.

2. **Presentation (10 points):** Your team will present your stakeholder's position as a 5 slide PowerPoint presentation to try to convince the class that your position is the CORRECT one. **EVERY member of the team should be prepared and present in class.** The class will vote to decide the future ANWR. Your job is to convince them to vote your way!
 - ****Do **NOT** include a summary of the general background of ANWR in your presentation but use your time to convince the jury (the class) to **support your position**.****
 - The presentation should be divided into three or four parts depending on the number of team members. **Each team member should be prepared to present a part in the presentation!** The instructor will randomly call on team members to discuss portions of the presentation, so each member must be prepared to present any part of the presentation. I recommend that you practice to determine how to best present your findings and get your group's point across in 7 minutes or less.
 - When designing your presentation, keep the text at a MINIMUM (using bullet points) and include lots of graphics. Be able to talk to about the bullet points instead of reading directly from the slide.