Plausibility of Models Explaining How Wetlands Affect Humans and the Environment

Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Teacher:** _____ **Period:** ____

Please work on this individually.

Read the following information carefully.

Humans create *models* to help explain things.

Below are two models. These provide different explanations about how wetlands affect humans and the environment.

Model A: Wetlands provide ecosystem services that contribute to human welfare and help sustain the biosphere.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

Wetlands help humans and the environment by purifying water, providing flood protection, helping to keep shorelines stable, recharging groundwater, and maintaining valuable habitat for fish, birds, other animals, and plants.

Model B: Wetlands are a nuisance to humans and provide little overall environmental benefit.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

Wetlands create many problems for humans, including flooding at times of heavy rainfall, providing a breeding ground for mosquitos and other pests, and preventing development of commercial and residential areas.

Plausibility is a judgment we make about the potential truthfulness of one model compared to another. The judgment may be tentative (not certain). You do not have to be committed to that decision.

Circle the plausibility of each model. [Make two circles, one for each model.]

	Greatly implausible (or even impossible)									Highly plausible
Model A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Model B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10