

**Silent Debate Statements**  
*with suggested discussion points*

1. Animals used for hunting are a more important part of the ecosystem than animals not used for hunting.
  - a. Discussion Point: Animals provide both resources and benefits to our ecosystem. Communities can value both for different reasons. Those animals who are not hunted may have essential roles in the food chain which sustain our ecosystem's resources (vegetation, land, etc)
  - b. Resource: hunting populations
  - c. Benefit- biodiversity (variety of animals for the food chain)
  
2. Humans could survive without nature.
  - a. Discussion Point: All resources and benefits come from nature/ecosystems. Humans could not survive without it.
  
3. The impacts of what we do to change a natural environment should be tested before the change is made.
  - a. Local, state, and/or federal governments monitor environmental impacts from human activities.
  - b. Scientists investigate these impacts to help government bodies know what is sustainable and what is not.
  
4. Human activities that could damage crops should be stopped.
  - a. Human activities can impact other resources we get from an ecosystem. For example: the USDA is investigating the impact of increased ozone levels on crops.
  - b. See the below resources if needed.
    - i. Effects of Ozone Air Pollution on Plants-  
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=12462>
    - ii. Monitoring Ground Level Ozone from Space-  
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2011/110829.htm>
  - c. Resource: Crops
  
5. Laws should be put into place to force companies to prevent chemicals from polluting the air.
  - a. Without laws or regulations, we would not be able to slow down or control the impact of human activities on the ecosystem.
  - b. Benefit: Air Quality
  
6. Human population should keep growing regardless of how many resources we have available.
  - a. Population growth requires more energy resources to sustain our current way of life.

7. Stopping pollution is more important than controlling it.
  - a. Human activities such as driving and using energy produce waste that can end up in the ecosystem.
8. Humans should protect the environment.
  - a. We depend on the ecosystem for life, just like other animals and plants.
9. It should be legal for people to take water from rivers.
  - a. States vary in their laws on water rights. In some places you need to own water rights before taking from rivers. Other areas only let you take from rivers when water levels are higher than the needed amount.
  - b. Resource: Water
10. Residents of a city should have to vote on whether or not new companies are allowed to build in their area.
  - a. Neighbors and residents sometimes do not get a say in what companies develop near their land or area.
  - b. Benefit: Quality of Life