

What Are Neighbors For? An International Talk Show Featuring Case Studies in Transboundary Environmental Issues

As we enter the 21st century, we are becoming increasingly aware that many of the challenges that face us go beyond political borders. Global problems related to the environment, for example, will require that countries work together to implement solutions that everyone can live with.

To help us understand the reality of this, we will investigate some of the current environmental issues that are impacting both the United States and Canada.

- Climate change, caused by global warming, has created all kinds of problems, especially up in northern Canada. You should look into the problem created by the Mountain Pine Beetle in British Columbia, Alberta, and Alaska.
- Air and water pollution around the Great Lakes area is causing problems on both sides of the border.
- British Columbia, especially Victoria, has a problem with the disposal of municipal waste. It is creating a pollution problem that threatens sea life in the San Juan Islands and the Georgia Strait.
- Coal mining in British Columbia in the Flathead region is creating problems for the people in Montana
- Devil's Lake, in North Dakota, is too full, and some people want to create an outlet, which seems to be creating problems for all those downstream,
- The current American administration wants to drill for oil in the Artic Wildlife Refuge. This may endanger a protected species of Caribou as well as the lifestyle of the people who depend upon them for their livelihood.

Working in groups of five: 3 days to prepare and create! 60 points

1. Choose one of the issues listed above to research and prepare a **10 minute** talk show segment that helps the audience understand the issue from both the Canadian and the American points of view. (One student will play "host"; two students each will assume the roles of appropriate "guests" to represent the issue from either side) You should look at **3 to 5 websites** in preparing your presentation. You should look for information on the following:
 - a. What are the concerns?
 - b. What has caused the problem?
 - c. Who is trying to do something about the problem?
 - d. What is being done to address the concerns?
2. Part of the reason that you are appearing on the talk show is to launch some type of public awareness campaign. **Create a product** that you will have designed to help your audience become involved in solving the issue.
 - a. Possible products: bumper sticker, poster, song, 30-second public service announcement, etc. The host may act as a consultant to both the Canadians and Americans in creating their products!
3. Write a final reflection – prompt included on scoring rubric.

Action Plan:

Issue chosen: _____
Group Host: _____
American Guests: _____
Canadian Guests: _____

Helpful Websites

- [Taking Action on Climate Change](http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/)
<http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/>
- [The Kyoto Protocol and Global Warming](http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/environment/kyoto/)
<http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/environment/kyoto/>
- [Coal Mine 'Under the Radar' Stirs Cross Borden Feud](http://www.cbmwatch.ca/items/000044.html)
<http://www.cbmwatch.ca/items/000044.html>
- [Flathead Coalition regroups to fight mine](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/news_stories/archives/000410.html)
http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/news_stories/archives/000410.html
- [National Defenses Resource Council: Drilling in Arctic](http://www.nrdc.org/land/wilderness/arctic.asp)
<http://www.nrdc.org/land/wilderness/arctic.asp>
- [Oil on Ice](http://www.oilonice.org/)
<http://www.oilonice.org/>
- [Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative](http://mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index_e.html)
http://mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index_e.html
- [Devil's Lake](http://www.cbc.ca/manitoba/features/devilslake/)
<http://www.cbc.ca/manitoba/features/devilslake/>
- [Key Resources for Understanding the Devil's Lake Controversy](http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/kbrooks/teaching/engr320/dllinks.html)
<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/kbrooks/teaching/engr320/dllinks.html>
- [Canada and the Oceans](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/sustain/EnvironIssu/canOcean/oceans-en.asp)
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/sustain/EnvironIssu/canOcean/oceans-en.asp>
- [Canada's National Climate Change Process](http://www.nccp.ca/NCCP/links/index_e.html)
http://www.nccp.ca/NCCP/links/index_e.html
- [Canada Resources](http://www.sej.org/international/canada.htm)
<http://www.sej.org/international/canada.htm>
- [Mountain Pine Beetles in British Columbia](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/faq.htm#Why%20is%20British%20Columbia%20in%20the%20midst%20of%20a%20mountain%20pine%20beetle%20epidemic?)
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/faq.htm#Why%20is%20British%20Columbia%20in%20the%20midst%20of%20a%20mountain%20pine%20beetle%20epidemic?
- [Toward Sensible Sewage Solutions](http://www.georgiastrait.org/sanesewage.php)
<http://www.georgiastrait.org/sanesewage.php>
- [Canada-US Relations](http://www.usembassycanada.gov/content/content.asp?section=can_usa&document=index)
http://www.usembassycanada.gov/content/content.asp?section=can_usa&document=index
- [Sewage and Runoff](http://www.georgiastrait.org/CAW/sewage1.php)
<http://www.georgiastrait.org/CAW/sewage1.php>

Scoring Rubric

	Excellent! 10	Adequate 8	Marginal 6
Research	Group showed evidence of thorough research, at least 5 sites properly cited, representing both points of view	Group research is adequate, 3 – 5 sites, fewer than 3 errors in citation, may have been more prepared on one side of the argument	Research is not clearly evident, 2 sites or fewer, errors in citation, no real effort to obtain information on both sides of the issue
Talk Show Discussion X 2	WOW! Group really knew their stuff, believable host and guests made the issue come alive for the audience. Addressed both sides' concerns and solutions	Group discussed the issue, although at times the host asked questions that guests were not prepared to answer. Addressed concerns and solutions, but not necessarily balanced	Group was not really prepared to get up in front of the audience and help them understand both sides of this issue. Some stumbling and inaccurate information in discussion
Balance	Both sides of the issue were clearly represented. The audience left with a clear understanding of both Canadian and American concerns	Both sides of the issue were touched on; however, the audience may have been able to only one side clearly.	Both sides of the issue were not addressed adequately. Audience may be confused about American and Canadian concerns
Public Awareness Products	Each side created its own product, clearly designed to impact the audience and get them to take an active role in becoming a part of the solution	One or two products may have been created. Creators did not necessarily have the audience in mind – raises awareness but does not promote activism	Only one product was created. Creators did not raise public awareness in a significant way – audience may be confused, not inspired to act

Final Reflection: Having heard all of the presentations and seen or heard all of the public awareness products, what have you learned about issues of concern to both Canada and the United States? What is one way that you can become involved in solving at least one of these issues? In other words, while these are global issues, they will take local involvement to promote workable solutions. Write a one page reflection: 10 points possible

