

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Making the Best of Invasive Species” by Kristin Ohlson

Guided Notes – Lesson 5

Does Ohlson effectively build the case for appreciating invasive species?

Objective: *In this lesson you will learn how to evaluate the argument to support the claim in a text by considering the reasons and evidence supplied by the author.*

Steps:

1. Identify the author’s claim.
2. Highlight reasons and evidence that support the author’s claim.
3. Ask yourself, “How do these reasons and evidence fit together to convince me of the claim?”
4. Ask, “Is the argument effective?”

FOCUS PASSAGE: Paragraphs 2-3

1. Identify the author’s claim.

2. Highlight reasons and evidence that support the author’s claim.

This prolific invasive plant—cursed by home gardeners and park and wildlife managers alike—is routinely wrenched from the ground or spritzed with herbicide in an attempt to keep it from taking over. But on April 14 at Cleveland’s Shaker Lakes Nature Center, garlic mustard was the guest—or rather, pest—of honor.

“Festival 2011” featured seven of Cleveland’s most notable chefs making garlic mustard a gourmet treat....

3. Ask yourself, “How do these reasons and evidence fit together to convince me of the claim?”
Explain your answer to this question.

4. Ask, “Is the argument effective?”

Be sure to include why it is or why it is not in your answer.

1. Identify the author's claim.
Same as above.

2. Highlight reasons and evidence that support the author's claim.

Take the Asian carp (please!) Imported from China in 1973 to clean algae from Southern ponds, the carp soon broke from their confines and infested Mississippi River waterways. Gobbling up the phytoplankton that support native species, the carp can grow four feet long and weigh 100 pounds. They continue to swim north and could establish themselves in the Great Lakes, the world's largest freshwater system, and decimate native fish populations there.

... Disgupta argues that the carp has all the health benefits associated with eating fish...

3. Ask yourself, "How do these reasons and evidence fit together to convince me of the claim?"
Explain your answer to this question.

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1. Identify the author’s claim.
Same as above.

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In Florida, George Cera has trained his fork on a different invasive creature: the spiny-tailed black iguana, which was imported as an exotic pet, then escaped and proliferated. Cera was hired by the town of Boca Grande on Gasparilla Island to hunt and kill the iguanas, which feast on endangered plants as well as the eggs of protected sea turtles, gopher tortoises and burrowing owls. “They grab and eat them like we’d eat a cherry tomato,” Cera says.

In two years, Cera bagged 12,000 iguanas, his conscience soothed as he found parts of protected species inside them. But it bothered him to kill an animal without eating it. Then, he met some Central and South American tourists who told him that iguanas are considered a delicacy back home, where they’re a native species. They gave Cera recipes. He tracked down more on his own and produced an iguana cookbook.

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