Wolves, Words, Views

Track how changing attitudes shape an author's choices.

9.T.C.2.c "Determine the reasons for changing attitudes around a topic and how that affects text. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that explain why attitudes about wolves changed or differ. Circle words, sources, or text choices that show how those attitudes affect writing.

How Views of Wolves Changed

1 In the early 1900s, many newspapers in the western United States described wolves as dangerous pests. Ranchers had lost livestock to predators, and settlers worried about safety near isolated homes. Government predator-control programs and bounty payments reinforced the belief that wolves should be removed. Articles often used words such as "menace," "raider," and "vermin." They focused on attacks on sheep or cattle and rarely explained wolves' role in food webs. The writers' attitude grew from economic loss, fear, and policies designed to reduce predator populations at the time.

2 By the late twentieth century, ecologists had gathered evidence that predators can influence entire ecosystems. When gray wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in 1995 and 1996, scientists monitored changes in elk behavior and plant growth. This research, along with documentaries and classroom lessons, gave many readers a different perspective. Articles favorable to restoration used terms such as "keystone species" and "ecosystem balance." They included graphs, scientific interviews, and descriptions of benefits, including reduced browsing by elk in some areas. The new attitude was shaped by research and by a growing public interest in conservation.

3 Attitudes toward wolves are still not uniform. Some ranchers support conservation but want compensation for confirmed livestock losses and tools to protect herds. Some tribal communities hold cultural relationships with wolves, while hunters, wildlife advocates, and local officials may emphasize different concerns. As a result, responsible recent texts often show more than one viewpoint. A news report may quote a rancher and a biologist, explain the limits of a study, and distinguish verified losses from rumors. Changing attitudes do not simply replace one set of words with another. They can change a text's sources, evidence, tone, and the questions it asks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What three factors shaped many early writers' negative attitudes toward wolves?

2. How did scientific research and public education help change some readers' attitudes about wolves?

3. How did articles from the early 1900s differ from articles favorable to wolf restoration? Give two differences in text choices.

4. Why might a recent news report quote both a rancher and a biologist and explain the limits of a study?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic whose public attitude has changed or is changing. Write three sentences that name an earlier or different attitude, explain what caused the shift or disagreement, and describe at least two ways that attitude would affect a text about the topic.

ANSWER KEY

Wolves, Words, Views

GRADE 9 · 9.T.C.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that explain why attitudes about wolves changed or differ. Circle words, sources, or text choices that show how those attitudes affect writing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three factors shaped many early writers' negative attitudes toward wolves?	**Economic loss from livestock predation, fear about safety, and predator-control policies with bounty payments.**
2	How did scientific research and public education help change some readers' attitudes about wolves?	**Research on ecosystems, documentaries, and classroom lessons gave readers a different perspective and increased interest in conservation.**
3	How did articles from the early 1900s differ from articles favorable to wolf restoration? Give two differences in text choices.	**Early articles used negative labels such as "menace" and focused on livestock attacks. Restoration articles used ecological terms and included graphs, scientific interviews, and evidence about benefits.**
4	Why might a recent news report quote both a rancher and a biologist and explain the limits of a study?	**It reflects differing attitudes, presents more than one viewpoint, and helps readers judge the evidence carefully.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the past, many shoppers saw single-use plastic bags as a convenient, low-cost choice. Reports about litter, wildlife harm, and long-lasting waste have led some communities to favor limits or reusable bags. A current article shaped by this attitude might cite waste studies, describe local bag policies, and use a concerned rather than celebratory tone.

Accept equivalent answers that connect a stated reason for an attitude to specific effects on word choice, tone, evidence, sources, or viewpoints. For Part 3, accept any accurate topic and a clear three-sentence explanation that includes both attitudes and text effects.