

Crossing Claims

Use text evidence to test an author's argument.

8.6.J "defend or challenge the authors' claims using relevant text evidence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's main claim. Circle details that support it, and number details that limit or challenge how broadly the claim applies.

Should Roads Include Wildlife Crossings?

- ① Across busy highways, animals often search for food, water, or mates on the other side. Roads can split habitats into smaller pieces, and collisions kill people as well as wildlife. Wildlife crossings, such as vegetated bridges and tunnels beneath roads, give animals a safer route. This approach deserves wider use because it can reduce crashes, reconnect habitat, and help animal populations move between areas. However, crossings cost money to build, so communities should examine local evidence before choosing a design.
- ② Evidence from Canada supports part of this claim. Along the Trans-Canada Highway in Banff National Park, wildlife fencing guides animals toward crossing structures. Researchers recorded more than 200,000 crossings by large mammals, including elk, deer, bears, and wolves, from 1996 through 2012. Studies there also found that fencing and crossings reduced collisions with ungulates, hoofed animals such as deer and elk, by more than 80 percent. These results strongly support crossings where roads cut through migration routes used by large mammals.
- ③ Still, Banff's evidence does not prove that every community should build the same crossing. The park has major migration routes, extensive fencing, and several types of structures, conditions that may not exist elsewhere. A small town with few recorded animal crossings might need to study where animals travel before spending public funds. The author's main claim is reasonable, but the Banff study alone cannot show which design will work on every road. Local crash records, animal-tracking data, and construction costs would strengthen a decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's main claim? Cite one detail from the passage that supports this claim.

2 How do the Banff results defend the claim that crossings can reduce crashes and help animals move between areas? Use two details from paragraph 2.

3 Which detail from paragraph 3 challenges using the Banff study to support the same crossing design everywhere? Explain how the detail limits the evidence.

4 Does the passage support or challenge the statement, "Every community should build the same wildlife crossing"? Defend your answer with text evidence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence recommendation to Pine County about whether it should consider a wildlife crossing. Defend or challenge the author's claim using two details from the passage, then name one type of local evidence the county should collect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main claim. Circle details that support it, and number details that limit or challenge how broadly the claim applies. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim? Cite one detail from the passage that supports this claim.	The author claims wildlife crossings deserve wider use. Support: Banff researchers recorded more than 200,000 large-mammal crossings, or studies found collisions with ungulates fell by more than 80 percent.
2	How do the Banff results defend the claim that crossings can reduce crashes and help animals move between areas? Use two details from paragraph 2.	Animals used the structures more than 200,000 times, showing that crossings can help them move across the highway. Fencing and crossings reduced collisions with deer and elk by more than 80 percent, supporting the safety claim.
3	Which detail from paragraph 3 challenges using the Banff study to support the same crossing design everywhere? Explain how the detail limits the evidence.	Banff has major migration routes, extensive fencing, and several types of structures. These conditions may not exist in other communities, so Banff's results cannot predict which design will work on every road.
4	Does the passage support or challenge the statement, "Every community should build the same wildlife crossing"? Defend your answer with text evidence.	The passage challenges the statement. It says Banff's evidence does not prove every community should build the same crossing and recommends using local crash records, animal-tracking data, and construction costs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine County should consider a wildlife crossing because Banff researchers recorded more than 200,000 large-mammal crossings, and fencing with crossings reduced ungulate collisions by more than 80 percent. However, these results came from a national park with major migration routes and extensive fencing. Before spending funds, the county should collect local crash records and animal-tracking data to choose a design.

Accept defensible responses that state a clear position and use accurate, relevant passage evidence. For Part 3, students should include two text details and identify local evidence that would help Pine County make a decision.