

What this author could do better:

What this author does well:

Clear and Effective Communication Student Work: Student 6C

10/2/15

Dear Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife,

I have determined an issue that affects not only the deer population, but also other animal populations around the United States. The issue that affects our wildlife is the building of roads and the using of roads. Roads are being built every day and for every road that is built, a habitat is destroyed. Not only are the roads affecting the animal populations across our country, but so are car collisions.

Unbelievably, an estimate of one million vertebrates are killed daily on roads in the United States. One million is nearly twice as high as the population in Vermont. You may wonder how this is possible, but the amount of miles of roads in the United States is an even more spectacular number. There are currently around 4 million miles of roads in the United States and 2.3 million miles are paved. Around 71 million acres of habitat have been lost to primary highways in our nation. Loss of habitats for animal species makes their survival a lot harder. One of the main reasons for all of these habitats lost is because 386,000 miles of roads have been constructed and are being used on Forest Service lands. This amount would circle the equator fifteen times. Clearly, roads are needed throughout cities, and interstates are needed all throughout our nation in order for people to travel and to get to places on time. Although this is true, 386,000 miles going through our forests isn't necessary for people to travel. An alternative to this would be building roads around mountains or forests, but this isn't always possible. If a road can be built around a mountain or forest, it definitely would help increase not only the deer population, but also other animal populations.

Considering that there are around 4 million miles of roads in the United States, it is nearly impossible to convince the right amount of people to finance the destruction of roads in a certain area just to save animal populations. But we need to do something about this issue.

This long paragraph would be clearer and easier to read if it were split into several smaller paragraphs.

The author creates a professional and respectful tone by using academic vocabulary and formal sentence structure, but still communicates how much they care about the issue.

Data in this paragraph is used without citing the sources, so the original researchers do not get credit.

This author establishes the nature of the problem in a thorough way with specific data.

The author acknowledges the difficulties in solving the problem, then presents a solution which addresses these difficulties.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, more than 1.5 million deer/vehicle collisions occur annually and they result in more than 29,000 human injuries including 150 deaths. This number is nearly 3 times the population of the state of Vermont! This proves that we need to do something fast so this isn't an issue. Something that we

could do to help the deer population would be to build bridges over interstates for deer to cross over. These bridges couldn't be built everywhere, but they could definitely be built in rural areas that interstates run through. Some interstates where this could be helpful are our own in Vermont, including 1-89 and 1-91. Some of the rural parts of these interstates have high populations of deer nearby and deer bridges would be very helpful. The construction of deer bridges isn't this easy. In order to build these bridges, we are going to need funders. In order to get funders, we would need to display the issue of car collisions with deer all around our state.

We could start out by building one bridge on each interstate and seeing if the amount of car collisions with deer is a smaller number after one year. Let's say that we had the bridges built by January 1st, 2016. We could estimate the population of deer in Vermont up to that date and we could check this number after every month. Also, we could keep track of how many car collisions with deer occur every month. After a full year, we could count the total loss/increase of deer in total, and due to car collisions. If there were fewer car collisions in 2016 than in 2015, then the deer bridges must have worked and we should continue to build more of them on at least our interstates in the state of Vermont. This data collected will show how much the entire deer population has decreased/increased throughout the year, and the other piece of data will show how many car collisions occur after each and *every* month. Overall, I believe that we need to do something about the deer car collisions that occur not only in our state, but all *over* the country.

Sincerely,

The author concludes with a compelling statement about the importance of this issue.