



5th Grade Reading/Language Arts Sample Questions

Letter 1

The Tribune

March 21

Dear Editor:



I am writing to you about an issue that has become of great concern to me.

The Chesapeake Bay area is a beautiful place to live. I have lived here all my life and would not dream of living anywhere else. In recent weeks, however, I have become very disappointed in a group of workers who live and work in the Bay area. These people seem to have forgotten the reason why the Bay area is such a desirable place in which to live.

Land Developers, Inc. appears to have no regard for the damage they are doing to the land and the Bay. They come into an area and remove all of the trees to make way for shopping centers, office buildings, and parking lots. Although all these things are needed for people who live here, the developers seem to have a total disregard for the way that their methods are affecting the environment. When they cut down the trees, serious washing away of the soil occurs, and this erosion is just the beginning of many changes. Not only does removing the trees disrupt the habitats of animals and the natural beauty of the area, it also causes mud to fill the water of the Bay. Too much mud kills the plants and animals that live in the Bay. Many people depend on fish as a way to provide for their families.

Land Developers, Inc. needs to think about the damage to the environment that their work causes. They need to realize that changing a small piece of land has a big effect on our world.

Sincerely,

Cathy Smith
Concerned Citizen

Letter 2

The Tribune

April 15

Dear Editor:



I feel I must respond to the letter published in last month's Tribune about Land Developers, Inc. First of all, not all developers remove every tree on a piece of property. Many of us take down as few trees as possible and plant new ones in other locations to replace the trees that were removed. Most of us carefully consider the consequences to the land when we plan and construct new buildings. We are trained professionals who provide a worthwhile service to the people of Chesapeake Bay.

It would serve no purpose for us to destroy the land and water around our developments. If we destroyed the area, many workers in the development industry would be put out of a job. We are simply trying to provide for the needs of families in the community. Please remember that I live and work in this area, too. I have chosen Chesapeake Bay as my home because of the beauty the area offers. Please remember that before you blame my company for problems in our area.

Sincerely,

James O'Neill

Land Developers, Inc.

1. Which sentence expresses an idea on which both letter writers agree?
 - A. Erosion is harmful to the environment.
 - B. The community needs shopping centers and office buildings.
 - C. Chesapeake Bay is a beautiful place to live.
 - D. Land Developers, Inc. causes damage to the Bay area.

2. Which of the following is **not** a reason that James O'Neill gives to show how senseless it would be for him to damage the land and water of the Chesapeake Bay area?
 - A. He would no longer have a job.
 - B. He feels he is providing a service.
 - C. He lives in the Bay area.
 - D. He does not believe erosion damages the land and water.