

Environmental Decision Making Model

From Karen Arms Environmental Science, 1996, Holt Rinehart and Winston

Values That Affect Environmental Decision Making

Value	Definition
Aesthetic	What is beautiful or pleasing
Economic	Gain or loss of money or jobs
Environmental	Protection of natural resources
Educational	Accumulation and use of knowledge
Ethical/Moral	What is right or wrong
Health	Maintenance of human health and prevention of sickness or disability
Recreational	Providing for human leisure activities
Scientific	Knowledge gained by scientific research
Social/Cultural	Maintaining human communities and respecting their values and traditions

To evaluate the pros and cons of an issue, look over the above list of values. Pick three or four values that seem relevant to the issue that you are studying. For instance, if I was researching the use of animals in testing medications, I might select Economic, Ethical/Moral, Health, and Scientific as four values that seem fundamental to the issue. Then, make a chart as follows putting positive and negative short and long term consequences on the right and the values you selected along the top. The first column, examining the question 'should animals be used in testing medications for humans' has been done as an example.

	Economic	Ethical/Moral	Health	Scientific
Positive Short-term consequences	Animals are cheaper to experiment on than are humans.			
Negative Short-term consequences	Animals cost money to properly care for.			
Positive Long-term consequences	Medications might become available more cheaply than if they had been tested on humans			
Negative Long-term consequences	Animal testing might result in bad public relations for the company.			

Step 1:

You will examine the question: "Should Dams on the Elwha River be removed?" Look over the list of values first chart and then make a table showing the positive and negative consequences of dam removal.

Step 2:

Once you have considered three or four aspects of dam removal, write a short essay explaining your conclusion.

American Field Guide Teacher Resources: Salmon vs. Dams

Access this lesson plan online at: www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers