

Essay Primer

In this activity, you will be taking the role of a Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia to determine which stakeholders may operate within the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark (TRUGG). Your decision will be given as a written, opinion-based essay that is supported with evidence and examples from your learning through past lessons and other reliable sources.

Your essay should include the following sections:

- **Introduction** – one paragraph, three to five sentences, providing an overview of the paper, including a thesis statement
 - Your thesis statement should be a clear, concise declaration of your opinion.
- **Three body paragraphs (minimum)** – these paragraphs that should each contain distinct reasons for your opinion, with each reason backed up with multiple pieces of evidence and examples.
 - Your reasons should be grouped thematically and flow logically through your paper (i.e., try to avoid jumping around between ideas).
- **Conclusion** – one paragraph, three to five sentences, providing a final statement that clearly affirms which stakeholders should be permitted to operate in the TRUGG.

On the next page are overviews of the many stakeholders (industries and groups) that currently are, or wish to be, operating within the TRUGG. It is recommended you spend time reviewing the overviews and your previous learnings to organize your thoughts.

TRUGG Stakeholders

These overviews provide a short description of each stakeholder. You should conduct deeper research beyond these overviews into the benefits/impacts of each stakeholder.

Tourism: This is a burgeoning economy in the TRUGG with many local career opportunities across a range of tourism sectors [e.g., recreation, scientific].

Wind Energy: The three largest wind turbine farms in British Columbia are all in the TRUGG area. Provides some local career opportunities.

Hydroelectricity: The Site C hydroelectric project is an \$11 billion project and encroaches on the traditional territories of several First Nations groups who also have treaty rights that extend into the TRUGG. It would have significant environmental impact on the area involved.

Oil and Gas: The natural gas industry in Canada is the fifth largest producer of natural gas in the world. Provides extensive career opportunities, albeit with significant environmental impacts.

Metallurgical Coal: Recently, the federal government has approved coal mines near Tumbler Ridge to continue operations. Metallurgical coal is a massive industrial and economic driver in British Columbia and provides local career opportunities. It also has numerous environmental and social impacts.

First Nations: The TRUGG is located within the Saulneau, West Moberly and other traditional territories. Their traditional way of life is affected by the Site C hydroelectric project, as well as the forestry, natural gas and metallurgical coal industries.

Forestry: Responsible for generating approximately \$19 billion in the province of British Columbia annually. Provides many local career opportunities. Environmental impacts are significant.

Yukon to Yellowstone Initiative: This non-profit organization is seeking to reduce the presence of humans/industry in the TRUGG and the Rocky Mountains from Yellowstone National Park in the U.S. to the Yukon in Canada. The Tumbler Ridge area is a critical connecting region as it includes the narrowest point in the corridor.

Endangered Species (Woodland Caribou, Grizzly Bears): The Government of British Columbia, working in conjunction with the federal government, is working to enact protective measures within the TRUGG to alleviate pressures on woodland caribou.

Citizens of Tumbler Ridge: As a community, those who live, learn, work and play in the TRUGG are the most directly-affected stakeholders. While their community could not exist without local industries to support their careers and economy, a healthy local environment is equally critical to their ability to live and thrive in the TRUGG.