Plausibility of Models Explaining Global Availability of Freshwater

Name_____Date_____Teacher_____Period_____

Please work on this individually and read the following information carefully.

Humans create *models* to help explain things.

Below are two models. These provide different explanations for the global availability of freshwater.

Model A: Earth's freshwater challenges will be solved by engineering solutions.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

Although the future may bring challenges to maintaining an adequate freshwater supply, technology is rapidly changing. Future engineering solutions will meet any future freshwater challenges.

Model B: Earth has a shortage of freshwater, which will worsen as our world's population increases.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

Increasing population will limit the availability of freshwater supplies. Almost all human activities require freshwater. Climate change will further stress availability.

Plausibility is a judgment we make about the potential truthfulness of one explanatory model compared to another. The judgment may be tentative (not certain). You do not have to be committed to that decision.

 Circle the plausibility of each model. [Make three circles, one for each model.]

	Greatly implausible (or even impossible)									Highly plausible
Model A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Model B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10