

## Plausibility of Models Explaining How Wetlands Affect Humans and the Environment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please work on this individually.**

**Read the following information carefully.**

Humans create *models* to help explain things.

Below are two models. These provide different explanations about how wetlands affect humans and the environment.

**Model A: Wetlands provide ecosystem services that contribute to human welfare and help sustain the biosphere.**

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

*Wetlands help humans and the environment by purifying water, providing flood protection, helping to keep shorelines stable, recharging groundwater, and maintaining valuable habitat for fish, birds, other animals, and plants.*

**Model B: Wetlands are a nuisance to humans and provide little overall environmental benefit.**

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

*Wetlands create many problems for humans, including flooding at times of heavy rainfall, providing a breeding ground for mosquitos and other pests, and preventing development of commercial and residential areas.*

Plausibility is a judgment we make about the potential truthfulness of one 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 two circles, one for each model.]**

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