



## Independent Research/Writing Activity: To Spray or Not to Spray

**Type of Teacher Tool:** Individual

**Targeted Grade Level(s):** 6-12

**Targeted Curriculum Areas:** Animal Life

### Learning Objectives:

The learner will:

1. research the advantages and disadvantages of spraying pesticides.
2. write an argumentative paper making a claim about spraying or not spraying pesticides and give information to support the claim.

### Featured National Standards:

1. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
2. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1.B Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
3. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

**Additional State and National Standards related to the content of our videos listed below for this lesson are also provided on the Educate.Today page where you find the video.**

### Resources/Materials Needed:

1. Nature 6: Celebrate the Earth with Insects: Mosquitoes and Monarchs—Insect Ecology and Eco-Sense
2. Nature 19: The Effectiveness of Mosquito Repellants
3. Nature 14: Ways to Control Mosquitos
4. Nature 12: Do Mosquitos Do Any Good Things for the Environment?

### Teacher Instructions:

1. Discuss why insects are important and why they can be a problem.
2. Watch and discuss some or all of the **Educate.Today** videos from above.
3. Students should research the advantages and disadvantages of pesticides.
4. Student small groups or pairs or individuals may pick an invention to improve or design a new product.

5. After the research the students should study their research and make a claim that they believe they can support about using pesticides or not.
6. Students should complete an argumentative paper with their claim and information to support their claims.

**Extension Activity Options:**

1. Students can present their paper to the class and debate with those that have the opposite claim.

**Assessment/Evaluation Options:**

1. Check that the students have made a claim that they can support.
2. Check that the students have supporting reasons.
3. Check that the students have used multiple sources without plagiarism.