

Springboard^{into} Comprehension 4

Main Idea	Fossil Fuels A Place in Space
Sequencing	Black Rock The Best Holiday Ever
Compare and Contrast	From Me to You Your Choice!
Fact and Opinion	Community Views The Daily News
Cause and Effect	Natural Disasters The Invaders
Bias and Prejudice	Have Your Say! Save Our Skate Park

RA 8.5–9.5



Have Your Say!



Written by Jonny Webster

Have Your Say!

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Healthy Discussions

What are healthy discussions? Healthy discussions are conversations between people with different opinions, or **viewpoints**. Why do people have certain views? Do their viewpoints serve their own interests? Are they biased? Did they reach a conclusion after careful thought? Did prejudice cloud their judgment? Think about your own opinions. Try to find out both sides of an argument before making up your mind.

Look at these topics – hunting whales, building roads through wildlife areas, mobile phones in schools, and building a new doughnut shop. Is there a right and wrong, or are there shades of grey? You may have a balanced view. Or, you might want to take a stand and have your say.



Making Tracks

In a crowded world, nature often has to make way for people. When people build houses and roads, animals often suffer. What can we do about this? The problem has two possible solutions – it is a **dilemma**. Can we stop building? Is there a way to solve this dilemma?



Sometimes, wildlife parks need to make room for new roads.

Rubbish and human waste can impact on animals and their environments.



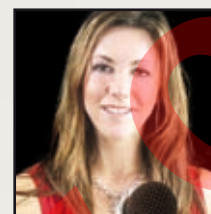
Traffic congestion can be a large problem in some areas.



CHANNEL 8 TV

Traffic Report

Transcript, Monday, June 1



Anchor: Mayor, the traffic in Byersville is terrible! There's only one lane for northbound traffic. This evening, an accident closed the road for five hours! Cars were backed up for miles. This can't go on!



Mayor Fumes: Clearly this is a bad situation! Before the election, I promised to sort out this mess. We will start building the new motorway shortly. There are already plans to go through Bella Valley. Once the council approves the plans, I shall personally send in the diggers.



Anchor: But Bella Valley is a place set aside for animals to live in safety, a **wildlife reserve**! It contains dozens of rare species!



Mayor Fumes: It contains a load of bugs! I don't care about bugs! I care about the people of this town getting home safely. That is more important than a bunch of creepy-crawlies!

Dear Members,

As you know, the Mayor wants to build a motorway through Bella Valley. This must not happen! The valley is home to many rare species – even one that is found nowhere else! I'm talking about the Bella Butterfly. It would be a tragedy to see it destroyed. Now, I know that there is no other way to build a road north. However, the Mayor must realize that nature is more important than traffic. We have to stop the Mayor going ahead with this!

Betsy Snodgrass,
President, SBVAG



The Bella Butterfly is a rare species that is found only in the beautiful Bella Valley.

To: Betsy Snodgrass betsy@sbvag.org
Mayor Fumes a.fumes@mayor.office.govt

From: Peter Patterson pete.pat@conservation.office.govt

Dear Ms Snodgrass,

I have looked into the Bella Valley problem. A new road is essential. The current road cannot handle the traffic. Several accidents have closed the road recently, causing long delays. It is vital that the new road pass through Bella Valley.

The Bella Butterfly is unique to this area. Building the road would probably destroy it. I believe we can find a way to build the road and save the butterflies. We could move them to another site. My team would capture as many as possible. Then, they would take them to a new site. The construction can start once the butterflies are safely in their new habitat. Please e-mail me if you think this is a workable solution.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Patterson,
Department of Conservation