



READING SKILLS

Determine Point of View

Directions Read the statement below. Answer the questions that follow to determine the point of view of the statement's writer.

Editorials and Opinions

The American West is a region under siege. It is an area threatened by overpopulation. In the last decade of the twentieth century, millions of Americans have moved to Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and the other states of the American West. In my opinion, the flood of people has been too much for the environment. As more people enter the region, animals are endangered. Entire species of animals are being threatened, as their habitats become new cities and towns. As communities grow, large amounts of forestland are destroyed. To prevent further damage, I believe that we need to put an immediate stop to migration to the American West."

George Smith,

director of the Preserve America's Nature organization

- 1 How does Mr. Smith feel about the migration of people to the American West?

- 2 Which words in Mr. Smith's statement help you to determine his point of view?

Directions Imagine that you have just read Mr. Smith's statement in a newspaper. Write a response to Mr. Smith that states an alternate point of view. Continue on another sheet of paper if you need more space.
