

# Alternate Eligible Content (AEC) Example

**Subject:** ELA

**Grade:** 8

**AEC Code:** E08BC3.1.1a

**AEC:** Identify an argument or claim that the author makes

**Intent Statement:** Find an opinion the author is trying to convey

**PA Reporting Category:** E08.B Informational Text

**PA Core Standards (List all that apply):**

CC.1.2.8.H Evaluate an author's arguments, reasoning, and specific claims for the soundness of the arguments and the relevance of the evidence.

CC.1.2.8.I Analyze two or more texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.

**Assessment Anchor:** E08.B-C.3 Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

**Descriptor:** E08.B-C.3.1 Demonstrate understanding of connections within, between, and/or among informational texts.

**Eligible Content:** E08.B-C.3.1.1 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

**AEC Coded**

- KNOW: An argument or claim
- DO: Identify
- CONTEXT: That the author makes

**Definition Notes:**

Argument: The position or claim the writer establishes. Arguments should be supported with valid evidence, and reasoning may be balanced by the inclusion of counterarguments to illustrate opposing viewpoints.

Claim: The thesis statement or main point that forms the basis for an argument within a text.

**Original Text:** An excerpt from the text: "Are the Everglades Forever?" Read Works

<http://www.readworks.org/passages/are-everglades-forever>

**Most Complex Level**

**Content Target:** Using a modified text, identify the main point of an argument that the author makes by answering open ended questions.

**Example Modified text:** Preview and pre-teach vocabulary as necessary. Modify as necessary for your student (e.g., ecosystem, Everglades, wetlands, native, invasive etc.). Online sources support this topic as a supplement (video, pictures, and posters).

The Everglades (swamps) are wetlands in southern Florida. It has many animals and plants that are native and depend on each other to survive. This is called a healthy ecosystem (community of living things). However, there are many invasive (spreading and not native) snakes called pythons and anacondas now living in the Everglades. This is a big problem.



There are several reasons why these snakes are a problem. They grow very big, up to 20 feet long. Due to their large size, it's difficult for other animals to kill them or eat them. Therefore, there are many, many snakes. Also, the snakes eat the food that is important for other animals like alligators. There are so many snakes that they have eaten most of the other animals; such as, opossums, rabbits, bobcats and foxes.

There are invasive (spreading) plants too. Some vine-like plants grow over original trees and plants. These plants are so thick; they can block water and animals. These non-native plants and animals hurt the ecosystem in the Everglades.



### Questions:

1. According to the author, what is one way in which snakes are a problem in the Everglades?
2. According to the author, what do invasive plants do that cause a problem in the Everglades?

### Mid Complexity Level

**Content Target:** Using a greatly modified text, supporting pictures/objects and a video, identify a claim the author makes from a choice of 3.

Example:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bet24QooSLM> (Stop at 2:57 )

Read the modified text. Preview and pre-teach vocabulary as necessary. Provide pic/objects as necessary to support learning and the unique needs of your student. Online sources support this topic and can be used as a supplement (video, pictures, and posters).

There are swamps in Florida called The Everglades.

Swamps are very wet places.

Many animals and plants live together in swamps.



There is a problem in the swamps.

Bad snakes called pythons are moving in and living there.



These bad snakes eat the animals in the swamp.  
Now some animals are gone.  
These snakes are bad for the swamp.  
They should not be there.

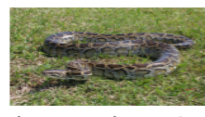
**Question:** What is the author trying to tell us in this text?



Pythons get along well with other animals.



Pythons make great pets!



Pythons are destroying The Everglades.

### ***Least Complex Level***

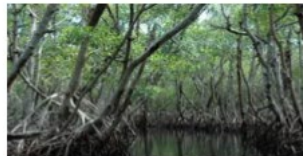
**Content Target:** Identify a picture that shows a claim the author makes using a significantly modified text.

**Modified text example:** Read the modified text. Preview and teach vocabulary as necessary. Provide pic/objects to support learning and the unique needs of your student. Online sources support this topic and can be used as a supplement (video, pictures, and posters).

### **Example:**

The swamp has a lot of water and plants.

Many animals live there too.



But there is a problem in the swamp.

Bad snakes moved to the swamp.



They are eating the animals.

Many animals are now dead.



The bad snakes are the problem. They eat the animals.

**Show me the problem in the swamp:** (birds, snakes, flowers)

