



Making a Land Use Decision: Hidden Forest Estates

Hidden Forest Estates is a residential area near a lake. Some residents have all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, jeeps, boats, and trucks. They want to build big barns to store their things. Their land is big enough for a barn. Other people are worried the barns will become places that collect junk. If the barns are not maintained, they will appear messy. They may lower the value of the houses in the neighborhood. Children may climb on the barns and get hurt. The Zoning Board for the Township has seven members. Three of the members agree that the land holders should be permitted to use the land as they wish. They may build barns. Three members believe that barns do not serve the common good in the area. They should not be in a residential neighborhood. One person is undecided.

Directions:

You are the undecided member of the Zoning Board. Use the information above, along with what you already know, to complete the following steps.

1. State your position (either for or against).
2. Use information from the information passage to support your position.
3. State how your position will affect land use in the community.
4. List one core democratic value and how it is used in your decision about how to vote.

Remember to:

- Use complete sentences.
- Explain your reasons.
- Write or print neatly on the lines provided on the next page.



Name _____

Making a Land Use Decision, Page 2 of 2

Extended Writing: Taking and Supporting a Position on an Issue

My position on the land use issue is: _____

My position is supported by:

1. _____

2. _____

My position will affect land use in the community because:

The core democratic value I used was: _____

Because it: _____
