

Positions on a Spectrum

1. "Hunting is an important tradition that helps the environment."
2. "Killing animals for sport is barbaric."

Obviously, these are two very different points of view on the issue of hunting!

Let's consider some information about deer hunting in the United States:

A century ago, the deer **population** was endangered due to the environmental **disturbances** brought on by the development of cities and towns. In recent years, however, the deer **population** has increased dramatically. In fact, most **native** deer species in the United States have **recovered**.

Hunting advocates say that the **recovery** of the deer **population** is partly due to all the money that hunters pay in licenses and fees to be able to hunt. This money goes to local governments and is used to create safe habitats for **native** animals, like deer, to thrive.



Deer overpopulation in some areas can cause problems for humans who live in or near their habitat. Deer collisions with cars can cause serious injury. Deer can damage gardens and crops. Hunters argue that hunting helps with these problems by reducing the number of deer to a natural level. They say that if you care about helping **native** species, you should accept the role that hunting can play in their survival.

Other people believe that it is unnatural for humans to hunt at all. They point out that when a tiger **preys** on a wild boar in nature, it does not need a shotgun. They say that the argument that it is natural for humans to hunt makes no sense at all. Still others think that hunting is moral only if you consume the animal that you kill.

