

## Unit 11

### Summary of the Article and Lecture

What kind of government?

What is the policy?

Linking words – however,

Opposite point of view – On the other hand, however/ but / yet / certainly / Sure there were those who,

Groups being discussed – Critics, population

Initial/past // fears/concerns/arguments

Consequences, opportunity, results

Regrow – rebound, flourish, and reestablish the population, grow, reshoot

*(State the facts in the article)* Recognising that fires are a part of the natural order of regrowth and regeneration, the American government introduced a policy of, 'let it burn' in the 1960s. Essentially, this means that when a fire occurs in a forest area, the standard practice was to let it die out of its own accord. However, when a massive fire destroyed much of Yellowstone Park, there were many who questioned the policy.

*(3 points raised)*

*(Initial concerns)* Critics pointed to the massive loss of trees, plants and vegetation, inciting the fear that some regions would never recover. *(Opposite view)* As pointed out in a recent lecture, with the power of hindsight, this concern was misplaced. *(Broad example)* Not only did vegetation rebound, but it became more diverse as a consequence. *(Specific example)* Seeds that need heat to germinate started to grow and other seeds lost beneath the canopy of the trees previously also started to flourish.

*(Initial concerns)* Certainly, there was much loss of wildlife and concerns were raised that some would never recover, leading to a breakdown in the food chain. *(Opposite view)* Recent views however, have concluded that not only did many populations recover, but thrived. *(Example)* With the increased number of small animals able to shelter in the new growth, it led to a return of predators as well, strengthening the food chain.

*(Fact)* The final area affected by the fire was tourism. *(Initial concern)* That year number dropped with the season closing early, and some worried that the business that rely on this to survive would in turn need to close their doors. *(Opposite view)* Although, the following year, data suggests that these statistics quickly rebounded. Yellowstone is still considered a must see for many travelers.

*(State what you learned after listening to both views)* What is clear, is that recent opinion still believes that the policy of letting fires burn out on their own is still viable, both now and into the future.

## Article two

*(State the facts in the article)* The introduction of the cane toad into Australia, a non-native species, with the aim of helping Australian farmers eradicate pests was initially greeted with optimism. Yet, they have adapted so well to the Australian environment that they are now having a negative effect on the natural ecosystem by threatening small native species. Proposals have therefore been drafted to stem the tide of the cane toad in Australia.

*(3 points raised)*

*(Initial idea)* The first proposal was to build a large fence to protect as yet un-colonized areas. This was proven successful in the past to stop the spread of rabbits, but one big obstacle stands in its way.

*(Opposite view)* As toads lay their eggs in water, eventually the population will spread to those areas protected by a fence. This suggestion appears to be a waste of time as it will only delay the inevitable.

*(Initial idea)* Using people power to capture and destroy the toads could work, *(Opposite view)* but there could also be a large loss of native frogs, especially when volunteers are not trained to recognise the difference between some frogs and the cane toad. Taking this approach may in effect harm the ecosystem more than save it.

*(Initial idea)* Introducing a virus, specifically designed to kill the toad may bode well for Australia.

*(Opposite view)* Although, if that virus was to get back to America, to where the cane toad is a natural species, it could have devastating effect on that environment.

*(State what you learned after listening to both views)* What is certain, given the presented information, is that as yet there is no clear solution to limiting the spread of the cane toad population in Australia.