

What this author could do better:

What this author does well:

## Clear and Effective Communication Student Work: Student 10A

Dear Mr. Porter,

### Issue Description and Background

This letter in in regards to the decline of the deer website, the October 3, 3015 update indicated that as the archery season opened, the deer population was estimated to be down 11 to 15 percent from last year. This means a deer population of around 120,000. Factors contributing to this decline may be related to the harsh 015 winter season. I have concerns about the deer population and habitat management in Vermont. Other issues include the fact that economic development of housing, roads, and stores may be destroying or hindering the health of the deer's environment. In order to keep the population strong we need to manage and create a more plentiful environment for the deer in the forests where they live.

Research indicates that because deer habitat is being advanced upon by humans for the sake of economic development, the deer need to migrate to other regions. These areas end up being suburban areas where the deer have ample food sources and places to bed. The public complain that the deer behavior has become a nuisance. The deer-human conflict is controversial. Community gardens and landscaping of the residents has been destroyed by hungry deer. Of greater concern is the motor vehicle deer collisions which poses a risk to the community citizens. The availability, efficacy and humaneness of proposed deer management options can lead to sentiments that differ. It should be realized that if the deer herd have adequate bedding and food sources, they may not need to migrate out of their natal grounds. When deer can have shelter, they may have improved stamina and strength to exist in their own habitat. Of this were the case, the deer may stay at their own environment, instead of moving

This long paragraph would be clearer and easier to read if it were split into several smaller paragraphs.

This author has organized the letter in a purposeful way by presenting the problem in detail, using evidence from sources to support the proposed solution, and then discussing possible data collection & follow up.

The use of appropriate academic language and scientific terms enhances the message.

into suburban areas. Currently, there are no regulations on hinge shelter building. Hinge shelters are protected bedding areas created by man for the deer. The hinge shelters are made using small, essentially non-useful trees. The process of cutting three fourths of the way through each tree and pushing it over causes it to bend over to provide a shelter. The bent trees leave an arc that doesn't kill the tree. The trunk still provides nutrients to the tree so it can survive for up to ten years. The shelter should be built out of a group of small trees. The cuts should be made at shoulder height so the deer have room to stand up and can enter or exit easily. The smallest branches are cut off and the larger branches are tied together with cord. To finish the hinge shelter, the area underneath is cleared of twigs and six foot bedding areas are rakes out for the deer. The deer can then bed in the shelters, away from harsh weather. Other small animals also benefit from the coverage. For the most part, these shelters are created by the private landowners in an effort to protect and manage the deer population in the region. The state should encourage and support the construction of deer shelters through hinge cutting efforts.

In the conclusion of this paragraph, the author shows awareness of the audience.

### **Possible Solutions**

One idea to help improve the status of the deer population decline is by helping to educate the community about the benefits of habit management. Educating citizens about the benefit of providing shelters for deer so that they can be safe in a natural structure within their own environment, could help ensure a preferred habitat region of the deer herd. The process of hinge cutting provides shelter, protection, safety and comfort as the deer bed down. The deer may be less apt to migrate in search of shelter. Resources such as written information, websites, videos, clinics and educated volunteers could be made available to help people learn more about habitat management through the hinge cutting efforts. The Fish and Wildlife Agency could post information online

regarding the purpose, benefit and ways to safely establish a habit management system through hinge cutting.

This author has done an excellent job of integrating information from sources into the finished work.

Website information such as Mossy Oak’s “The Strategy for Hinge Cutting” explains the appropriate procedures for habitat modification by implementing hinge cutting. Other resources include the “forums” on the Quality Deer Management Association’s website, [www.qdma.com](http://www.qdma.com) or the Gamekeepers website [www.farmingforwilife.com](http://www.farmingforwilife.com). These resources provide advice about strategies and examples of hinge-cutting techniques. As more people use these strategies, more can be gained as evidence regarding the effectiveness of these hinge-cutting shelters and screens is learned. There are many strategies to handle the decline of deer population but I believe that the hinge-cutting strategies are the most effective and financially sound. After the hinge-cutting shelters have been in place for three years, surveys and deer population count can be performed in those specific regions and compared to areas without the hinge-cutting efforts to determine cause and effect outcomes. Data such as population, migration habits, bedding and browsing patterns can be assessed. Also, nuisance and motor vehicle collision data can be collected. Reviewing the data can help determine the efficacy of hinge cutting as a way to successfully address deer population and habit management in our state. Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

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