

Name: _____

Directions: Read the passage below. Highlight or underline the criteria used by the Giraffe Project to select individuals/groups as “Giraffes.”

The Giraffe Awards

The Giraffe Project, a small foundation in Washington State, applies several criteria to identify individuals or groups of individuals who “stick their necks out for the common good,” who do something “to make the world a better place.” The foundation publicizes these “Giraffes” and their good deeds on over five hundred radio stations. To qualify for the Giraffe award, one must meet several criteria.

According to the foundation, “A Giraffe must be taking on significant personal risks, either physical, financial, or social. Giraffes act out of caring. They may well rock the boat, but they do it to make things better, not just more exciting; their activities are ultimately healing, not divisive. ... Giraffes act above and beyond the call of duty. People doing jobs they’re trained and paid to do may be brave and caring, but they’re only Giraffes when they go beyond their job descriptions.”

Ralph Flowers worked for the Washington Forest Protection Association. Part of his job was to shoot black bears that were ripping the bark from firs in order to eat the sapwood beneath. Flowers decided he had to disobey the Association’s orders because he did not want to kill the bears. Instead he spent \$12,000 of his own money developing a special feed for them made of sugar beet pulps, which he set in troughs for the bears to eat. As soon as the bears began to chow down on the sugar beet pulp, they gave up stripping the bark from trees. The Forest Protection Association and the timber companies now support this project.

Mr. Flowers was chosen to be a Giraffe because what he had done met the Giraffe Project’s criteria. First, he undertook the project himself. Second, he risked losing his job when he rejected the policy of shooting the bears. Third, he made a personal sacrifice. The project cost him \$12,000 of his own money. Fourth, Mr. Flowers undertook his project out of caring. He had no expectation of personal gain. Fifth, his work was healing in the sense that it united the Forest Protection Agency and the timber companies in an effort to conserve wildlife. Finally, what he did went beyond his job description. He did far more than he was trained or paid to do.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Argument Writing

Subject (*What is the subject of your argument?*): _____

Claim (*What is the main point that you will argue?*):

Reasons (*Why should reader accept your claim?*):

Evidence includes:

- Facts
- Figures
- Stats
- Examples
- Quotations

Reason #1	Reason #2	Reason #3

Evidence to support Reason #1	Evidence to support Reason #2	Evidence to support Reason #3
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Counterclaim (*What is the opposition's main argument?*):

Rebuttal (*How is this argument flawed?*)



Conclusion (*Provide a summary of claim and a call to action.*):

Read over the following cases and decide which person should receive the 2013 Giraffe Award. Be prepared to defend your decision based on the foundation's criteria. Also, be sure to note if any candidate does not meet the criteria and be prepared to explain why.

Case A	
Case B	
Case C	
Case D	
Case E	
Case F	
Case G	

Name: _____

Directions: Read over the following cases and decide which persons, if any, could receive the Giraffe Award. Be prepared to defend your decisions based on the foundation's criteria. That is, if you decide that one or more cases should not receive the award, be prepared to explain what criteria are not met. If you decide someone should receive the award, explain how that person meets all the criteria.

CASE A:

Joseph Nicholas and David Francis Sr. have worked very hard to reinvigorate the language of Maine's Passamaquoddy Indian tribe. Passamaquoddy is New England's last living Indian language, and fewer and fewer people speak it every year. This native language has great competition from mass media, local businesses, schools, and other institutions that use English. To reverse this trend, Nicholas and Francis create and distribute bilingual booklets and videotapes and teach classes in the Passamaquoddy language. The two men also encourage tribal members to pass along their many skills such as woodcraft, making birch-bark canoes, building fires without matches, and basket weaving. Francis is seventy years old. This former clam digger, woodchopper, and blueberry picker is gathering words and phrases for a second edition of the Passamaquoddy dictionary. He says, "If we lose our language, we lose our identity. It is the last thing Indians have." Nicholas, sixty-one, a former tribal councilor and state representative says, "Indians are always the lazy, bad guys in the history books. Our own kids had no sense of who we really were." The two believe that such attitudes are in great need of change.

Criteria Met:

CASE B:

The Columbia Point area of Boston is beset with problems, including rampant drugs, guns, and poverty. It is a difficult place to live because of the guns and drugs. Betty Washington can watch the guns and drug commerce from her second-floor window in the housing project. She is forty-seven and has raised eleven children by herself. She has worked full time to support them. One summer, she decided to try to stop the drug traffic. She organized the Columbia Point Antidrug Committee. With other community groups, she held an antidrug rally in a parking lot frequently visited by drug dealers. She demanded that police be more vigilant and set up a hotline to collect anonymous tips on drug dealer activities. In the first few months of her work, there were six arrests for drug dealing (in the preceding eighteen months, there had been none). She is determined to make the area safer for kids and adults who live there.

Criteria Met:

Name: _____

CASE C:

Jerry Foster, a TV helicopter pilot, is paid to look for news stories for Phoenix (Arizona) station KPNX. In the course of his work, he has saved dozens of lives, from mountain climbers who became lost or stranded to desert hikers who ran out of water. Sometimes he gets so involved in his rescuing efforts that he forgets to load the camera for his TV feeds. He doesn't care. "I'm no *bleeping* journalist," he says. It doesn't bother his bosses either, because he has become a star. During some of his rescues, he has violated the Federal Aviation Administration safety regulations. As a result, he was grounded for a while. While appealing this decision, he continued to fly. "I love saving lives. ... Nobody has it better than I do."

Criteria Met:

CASE D:

Every day, just before noon, Sister Beth Dadio drives a van to the Omaha (Nebraska) Central Park Mall to deliver sandwiches, chips, and fruit juice drinks to large groups of homeless people who live on the streets of Omaha. She and her colleagues once operated a daytime shelter where the indigent and homeless could find shelter and food. However, the shelter drew many complaints from area businessmen, which prompted the building's owner to cancel the shelter's lease. So Sister Beth began taking food and drink to the Central Park Mall, a location chosen to bring attention to Omaha's homeless problem. Not unexpectedly, the city fathers tried to prevent these public displays of feeding the poor. But city officials lost the battle and even promised to open a new shelter.

Criteria Met:

CASE E:

In 1980, Fidel Castro allowed almost 125,000 Cubans to leave for the United States. In so doing, he managed to rid Cuba of a host of criminals, mentally ill people, and other undesirable folks. As a result, the people of Miami have been wary of immigrants from Mariel. But not all the Marielitos were socially undesirable. Many were honest, hard workers who were seeking a better life for themselves and their children. Esteban Torres and his family were among the honest group. Eseban, now eighteen, remembers, "I know they had some crazy guys come over from Mariel, but I don't like it when people try to put me down." He had to work hard to overcome the stereotype. To do so, he took extra classes to learn English, earned mostly As, and became editor of his junior high school paper. During his senior year in high school, he took science courses at a nearby college and helped teach physics at his own school. Recently graduated, he plans to attend MIT.

Criteria Met:

Name: _____

CASE F:

A little over fifty years ago, Chester A. and Mary Ruth Blackburn became homesteaders on a bleak plain in northwestern Wyoming near Heart Mountain. They lived in a barracks that had been home to 11,000 Japanese-Americans interned there during World War II after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese naval and air forces. As the Blackburn couple farmed the land, they developed a bond with the former residents of the barracks, partly because of the living conditions. "There's no *insulation* in those barracks," explained Chester. But they also realized that the camp symbolized "one of the greatest violations of Civil Rights laws in the United States." In 1972, the Blackburns retired, sold their farm, and began transforming the barracks into a memorial for the victims of the internment. They created two memorials at the camp, got the place declared a national historic site, and saved documents about its past. The Blackburns were honored at two reunions of Japanese Americans who had once lived at the Heart Mountain barracks.

Criteria Met:

Case G:

Some people call Ray Proffitt "the river vigilante" because he has decided to do his best to protect the Delaware River and its tributaries. He makes regular cruises along the Delaware and its tributaries, sometimes in a plane and sometimes in an amphibious vehicle. He looks for any sign of trouble—sewage spilling in through drain pipes from towns; chemical spills and industrial waste dumps; dumped debris such as asphalt, garbage, and even furniture. He attempts to trace the pollution to its source and confront those responsible with his log notes and photographs. If they don't agree to stop polluting and clean up what they have done, he takes them to court under the Clean Water Act. He has sued "land developers, corporations, towns, and EPA officials," including the EPA Administrator and the U.S. Attorney General. He charged the latter two with failure to enforce environmental regulations. No attorney was willing to represent him against the nation's chief attorney, so Proffitt filed the lawsuit himself. Usually his lawsuits cause the defendants to scurry to change their ways. When the cases do go to trial, the polluters often receive heavy fines and sanctions that require their compliance with the environmental laws. Sometimes the case settlement provides reimbursement for the money Proffitt has advanced to lawyers. But all other costs—vehicles and their maintenance, photography, and so forth—come out of his personal funds. "I don't do this for the money," he says. "I do this for the river."

Criteria Met: