

Wednesday 15th April, 2015

**Summary: CICASP Seminar 01**  
**Mini-debate (1 of 2)**

After a brief introduction to the aim, purpose and format of CICASP Seminars in Science Communication, students were divided into five groups. The current block of CICASP Seminars in Science Communication is to give students the chance to think critically about the arguments 'for' and 'against' a particular proposal. Each group came up with reasons why whaling in Japan should remain stopped, as well as reasons as to why it should continue. The suggestions from everyone in the seminar are given on the following page. The topics that we will consider, in this block of seminars, are controversial and feature in current news reports. Follow this link to see news on the day of our seminar directly related to whaling:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2015/0415-hance-whaling-japan-iwc.html>

Wednesday 22nd April, 2015

**Outline: CICASP Seminar 02**  
**Mini-debate (2 of 2)**

In this seminar we will hold a mini-debate. Elephants are being killed illegally for their ivory. China is the largest market, Japan the second largest. Ivory is used in Japan, currently, for hanku and for a musical instrument, the shamisen. Worldwide ivory is used for carved objects and in China for jewellery. Carved ivory dagger handles are also sold at high prices.

The question under debate is: Should the ban on elephant hunting be lifted, in order to allow the legal sale of ivory? If elephant-hunting for ivory were legalised, then it could be taxed and monitored.

At the seminar, you will be assigned to one side of the argument. This means that you might be defending a viewpoint opposite to your own. This gives better practise at debating and thinking critically.

There are two attached PDFs for you to look over before the seminar:

1. Four pieces about the ivory trade & elephant hunting containing both pros & cons
2. An article to read if they would like more information on how the illegal ivory trade is impacted in relation to the Japanese market.

Arguments 'for' and 'against' whaling suggested by Seminar attendees:

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Yes: Keep on Whaling

No: Stop Whaling

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Only hunt non-endangered species

Protect biodiversity and endangered species

Whale meat is delicious

Alternative foods are available

Traditional practise

Long life history of whales

Employment/potential job losses within Japan

Animal welfare perspective – inhumane to kill them

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