Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

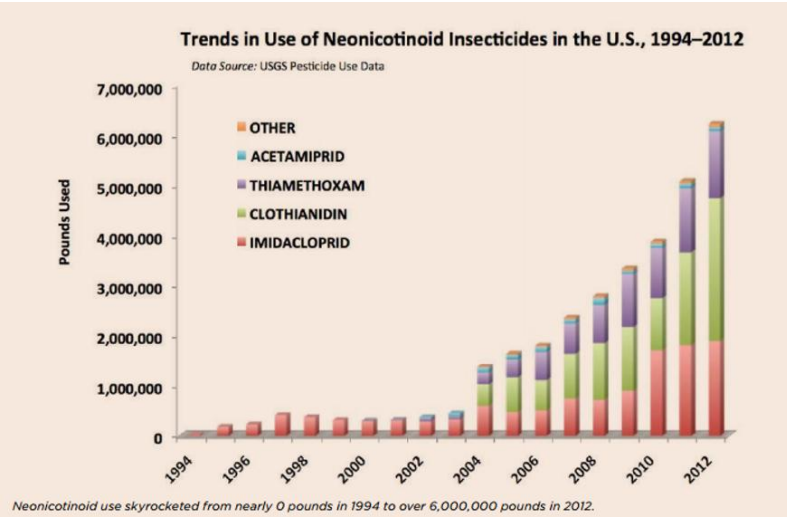
Recognizing and Writing MEL-Con Responses Wk # 3

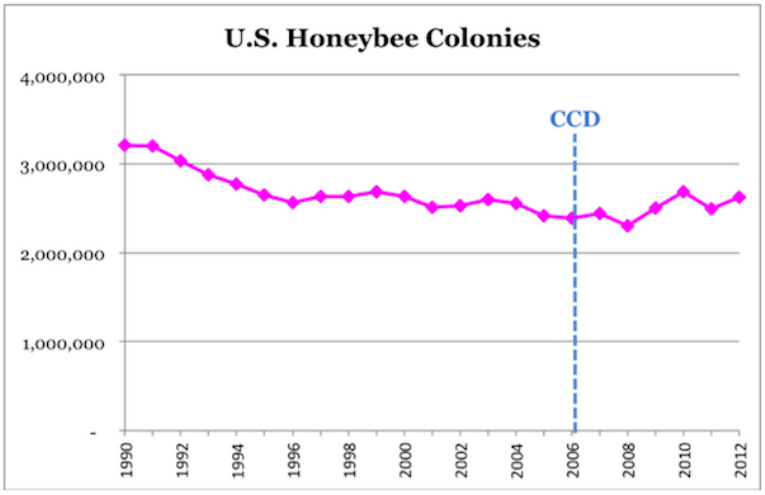
Directions: Read and annotate the theme below.

Theme: Scientists have been studying declining bee populations. Since the late 1990s, beekeepers around the world have observed the mysterious and sudden disappearance of bees, and report unusually high rates of decline in honeybee colonies. Bee-killing pesticides in particular pose the most direct risk to pollinators. The main reasons for global bee-decline are linked to industrial agriculture, parasites/pathogens and climate change. The loss of biodiversity due to monocultures and the wide-spread use of bee-killing pesticides are particular threats for honeybees and wild pollinators.

Directions: Below are a prompt and sample MEL-Con response; using the information from the theme and the sample prompt, underline the main idea in the response, circle the evidence, and bracket the link.

Writing Prompt: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would like to put stricter guidelines in place for the use of pesticides in agriculture. The proposed guidelines would most likely result in the protection and increase of the bee population; however, the same could be said of insects that have more adverse effects on profitable crops. Make a claim deciding whether you agree or disagree with the FDA. Use the evidence selection below.





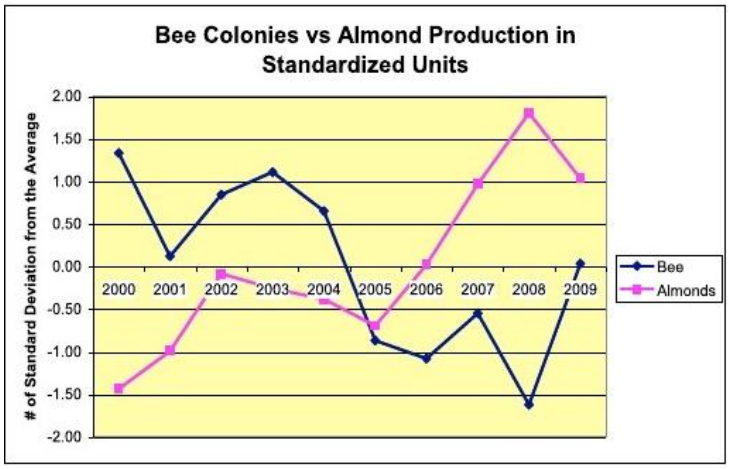
MEL-Con Response: It is best to agree with the FDA to restrict the usage of pesticides. Looking at the graphs above, as pesticide usage increased in the United States between 1994 and 2012, the bee population continued to decrease during the same time period in the U.S. with only a slight increase in the population in 2010 followed by another decline. This evidence supports the fact that the pesticides are harming the bee populations and that this can affect the pollination of agricultural plants. The more pesticide used the less likely bee populations will be able to recover in agricultural areas.

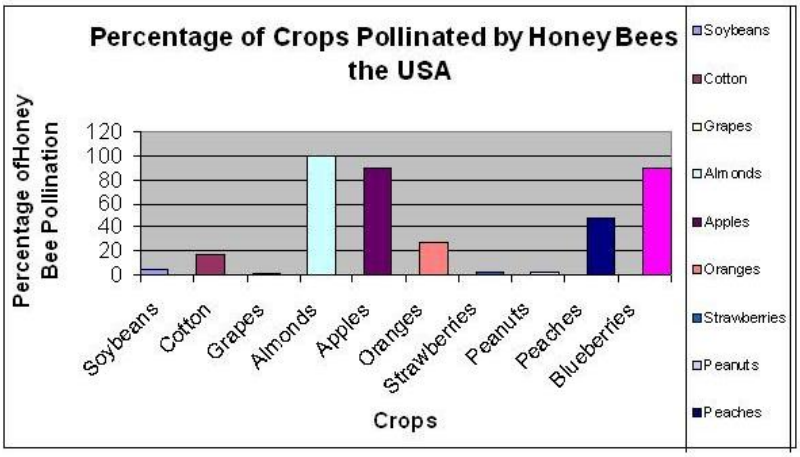
Directions: Below is another prompt based on the same theme with different evidence data. Using the prompt and evidence below write your own MEL-con response.

Prompt: Colony Collapse Disorder is the phenomenon that occurs when the majority of worker bees in a colony disappear and leave behind a queen, plenty of food and a few nurse bees to care for the remaining immature bees and the queen. Bees make more than honey – they are key to food production because they pollinate crops. Bumblebees, other wild bees, and insects like butterflies, wasps, and flies all provide valuable pollination services. A third of the food that we eat depends on pollinating insects: vegetables like zucchini, fruits like apricot, nuts like almonds, spices like coriander, edible oils like canola, and many more. In Europe alone, the growth of over 4,000 types vegetables depends on the essential work of pollinators. But currently, more and more bees are dying. The bee decline affects mankind too. Our lives depend on theirs. Make an INFERENCE/CLAIM about the STATEMENT below based on the TEXT and DATA (Figure 1 and Figure 2) presented. Remember to respond in well-organized manner (Mel-Con format)

STATEMENT: The decline of the bee population has not had an impact on the production of crops in the last 10 years.

Another look at Bees vs Almonds





MEL-Con Response:

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