

Discussion Questions Answer Key

Conflict on High

Answer all of the following questions for each of the two documents.

1. Who wrote/produced/published each document?

KPNO: The Kitt Peak National Observatory produced and published their webpage.

STES: An undergraduate student wrote this for her senior thesis and it was published by Barnard College.

2. Who is the intended audience?

KPNO: The public/observatory visitors.

STES: Academics at Barnard College and in the field of Urban Studies.

3. What is the tone of each document?

KPNO: Informative, positive.

STES: Persuasive, informative but opinionated.

4. What information is included in one document and not the other? Why do you think this is?

KPNO: Mentions the story of the Tohono O’odham tribal council visit to the observatory, when they looked at the moon and decided to let the observatory be built there. Tohono O’odham basket are sold at the KPNO gift shop and that all electricity for the facility is purchased from the tribal utility authority.

STES: The Tohono O’odham were not able to negotiate the terms of their lease with the NSF on equal terms, that the terms of the lease benefit the NSF and that the astronomical community doesn’t properly respect the Tohono religious connection to Kitt Peak.

5. What points of view on this conflict are missing from these documents?

There’s nothing written by a member of the Tohono O’odham.

6. Can you think of any aspects of this conflict that might not be addressed in either of these documents?

Neither document talks about the ecological effects on the mountain by the presence of the observatory or changes going forward regarding the arrangement between the Tohono O’odham and the astronomical community.