

1. Full citation:

Coombs, Amy. "Methyl Bromide Still Finds Its Way into U.S. Fields." SFGate. San Francisco Chronicle, 24 Nov. 2007. Web. 26 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.sfgate.com/green/article/Methyl-bromide-still-finds-its-way-into-U-S-3233910.php>>.

2. Where did/does the author work, what else has s/he written about, and what are her/his credentials:

Amy Coombs is a journalist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She has also written various other news articles for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. While I cannot find specific credentials, I believe it is safe to assume the article has credibility due to the credibility of the publication that it is published in.

3. What are the topics of the text:

The topic of the text is methyl bromide and how it is finding its way into fields in the United States.

4. What is the main argument of the text:

The main argument of the text is that methyl bromide and other ozone-depleting chemicals are harmful and should have their use discontinued.

5. Describe at least three ways that the argument is supported:

- a) Coombs details how some organic farmers still use stock plants that have used methyl bromide.
- b) Coombs details how canola can have the same effect as methyl bromide and are much safer.
- c) Coombs uses an example of less developed countries are phasing out methyl bromide.

6. What three quotes capture the message of the text:

- a) "Miars said farmers must use organically grown stock plants whenever possible, and she confirms that organic strawberry starts are available. As organic farmers in Northern California have grown several generations of high-yield strawberries without methyl bromide, they say the chemical is never the only option."
- b) "According to Cohen, canola - a yellow-flowering plant of the mustard family grown to make cooking oil and biodiesel - can be used to replace methyl bromide. The seed meal is distributed in specialized gardening stores as a soil treatment."
- c) "There are several developing countries that are phasing out methyl bromide earlier than (developed countries)," said Megumi Seki, a senior scientific affairs officer at the U.N. Ozone Secretariat."

7. What three questions about environmental risk and precaution does this article leave you with:

- a) How popular is canola as a pesticide?
- b) How widely used is methyl bromide today?
- c) How much does the chemical industry rely on methyl bromide?

8. What three points, details or references from the text did you follow up on to advance your perspective on environmental risk and precaution:

- a) Canola is quite popular as a pesticide and is in fact classified as a pesticide according to the EPA.
- b) It seems that many countries have phased out the use of methyl bromide while the United States continues to regulate its use at some level through the use of exceptions.
- c) While I was not able to find specific figures, I would imagine that it is reasonable to infer that methyl bromide is quite profitable if its use is still prevalent despite attempts to curb its use.