

## Celebration of the Human Voice/2

Their hands were tied or handcuffed, yet their fingers danced, flew, drew words, The prisoners were hooded, but leaning back they could see a bit, just a bit, down below. Although they were forbidden to speak, they spoke with their hands. Pinio Ungerfeld taught me the finger alphabet which he had learned in prison without a teacher:

*"Some of us had bad handwriting" he told me. "Others were masters of calligraphy."*

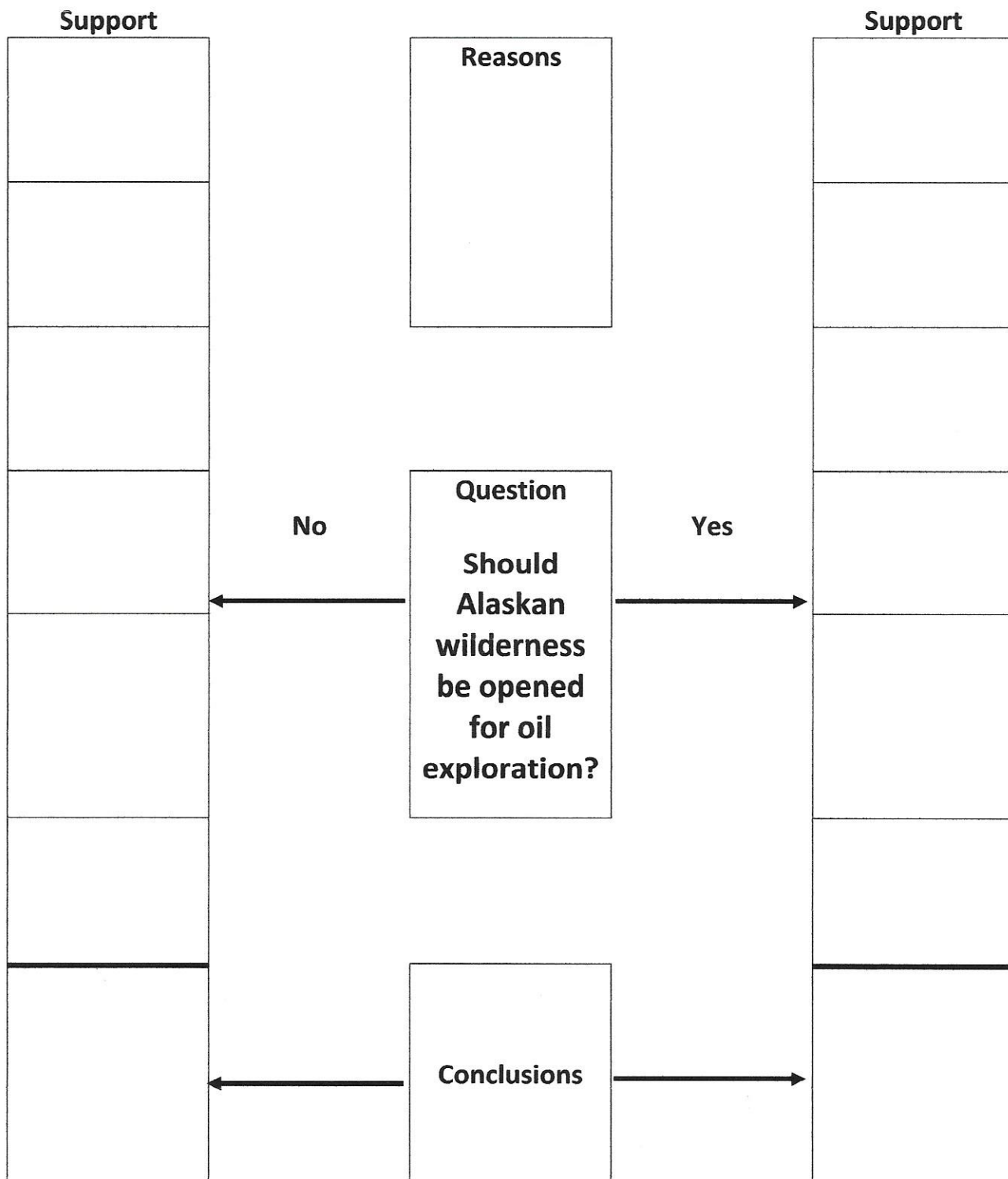
The Uruguyan dictatorship wanted everyone to stand alone, everyone to be no one: in prisons and in barracks and throughout the country, communication was a crime.

Some prisoners spent more than ten years buried in solitary cells the size of coffins, hearing nothing but clanging bars or footsteps in the corridors. Fernandez Huidobro and Mauricio Rosencof, thus condemned survived because they could talk to each other by tapping on the wall. In that way, they told of dreams and memories, fallings in and out of love; they discussed, embraced, fought; they shared beliefs and beauties, doubts and guilts, and those questions that have no answer.

When it is genuine, when it is born of the need to speak, no one can stop the human voice. When denied a mouth, it speaks with the hands or the eyes, or the pores, or anything at all. Because every single one of us has something to say to others, something that deserves to be celebrated or forgiven, by others.

Eduardo Galleano  
The Book of Embraces

### DISCUSSION WEB



# Sticky-Note Prompts

## Guidelines for younger students in preparation for literature study groups

- Questions I have
- Parts that are beautifully written
- Places that make me sad, angry, laugh
- Parts that make me want to keep reading
- Parts where I learn more about the characters
- Places where I learn about where the story takes place

## Guidelines for older students in preparation for literature study groups (elements of fiction)

- **Tension:** excitement, suspense, nervousness; anticipation that keeps us turning pages
- **Character:** conversations, actions; descriptions that teach us about the characters
- **Place and Time:** descriptions that paint mind-pictures; sections creating time and place
- **Mood:** feelings of reader, characters; parts that arouse emotions
- **Symbols:** symbols contributing to mood, tension or resolution; what they represent
- **Point of View:** first or third person; how point of view influences thoughts and feelings about characters

## Guidelines for Nonfiction

- Questions I have
- Information I don't understand
- Places where I need more examples
- Powerful images to help me remember
- My opinions, feelings, reactions
- Connections I make to ideas and content

## React to the Fact

**Pg. 5** Woodchuck is largest member of the squirrel family.

**Pg. 6** Their ears have inner muscles that close so dirt doesn't get in.

**Pg. 7** The front teeth grow constantly so must be worn down or could pierce skull.

Fact	Pg #	Group Reaction/Fact	Personal Reaction