Damming the Grand Canyon Worksheet

In your own words define the following terms:

1. Absolute Space: __________ area specifically outlined and contained within __________________________

2. Relative Space: _______ an area that supports multiple uses at the same or different times __________________________

3. Representative Space: ___ an area imagined and supported by symbols, shared meaning, history or values __________________________

After reading about the dam controversy in *Wilderness and the American Mind* provide an example of each related to the controversy over the Grand Canyon dams:

4. Absolute Space: _______ The Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon National Monument, etc. __________________________

5. Relative Space: _______ The construction of the dams at Marble and Bridge Canyon would have used the area _______ for the production of hydroelectric power as well as tourism to the Grand Canyon. __________________________

6. Representative Space: _______ The Sierra Club made the Grand Canyon a representational space by running their _______ ads and thus making it an American landmark and representative of all the natural wonders of the world. __________________________

7. The Sierra Club published an ad asking, “Should we also flood the Sistine Chapel so tourists can get nearer the ceiling?” This question asked the public to view the Grand Canyon as what kind of space? Explain your answer with specific detail from the reading.

Representational space, within their answer students should discuss how the canyon became more than just a canyon but was now a revered part of American wilderness that must be preserved for future generations. __________________________

8. Why were ads like these published by the Sierra Club effective at battling the proposed Grand Canyon dams?

These ads appealed to all that had ever heard or seen the Grand Canyon and to the idea that this natural _______ wonder could be destroyed. Students can also elaborate on the Sierra Club’s effective campaign to make the _______ Grand Canyon a representative space to Americans. __________________________
9. After completing your primary source analysis of the Reclamation/Newlands Act of 1902 what was the purpose of the Act?

The purpose of the act was to fund and construct irrigation projects for the relief of arid urban areas through the creation of the Bureau of Reclamation.

10. Do you believe the proposed dams fulfilled the purpose of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Reclamation/Newlands Act? Justify your answer.

This question asks the student to state and support their own opinion, within their answer though they should include factual support from both readings.