Both the reading and the lecture talk about the hypotheses to explain the decline of the yellow cedar in...., a species of the tree that is common in northwestern North America. The reading puts forward three hypotheses, but the lecture thinks none of the explanations discussed in the reading is adequate.

First, the reading believes that the decline may be caused by insects parasites, specifically the cedar bark beetle, explaining that this beetle is known to attack cedar trees and there have been recorded instances of sustained beetle attacks overwhelming and killing yellow cedars. Such a situation is presented quite differently in the lecture. The lecture holds that the beetles are not the fundamental cause responsible for the decline of the yellow cedars, because the healthy yellow cedars are concentrated with powerful chemicals that are poisonous to insects. In those cases, the beetles attacked trees that were already damaged or sick and what probably dead anyway. Good

Second, the reading claims that brown bears also attributed to the decline, saying that bears sometimes would claw at the cedars in order to eat the tree bark, and their aggressive feeding habits may critically weaken trees. It again challenges what is stated in the lecture. The lecture harbors the idea that bears are not the cause of the over all population decline, because yellow cedars population has been declining all across the northwestern coast of North America, both on the mainland and on the islands just off the coast. But there are no bears on the islands. So the bears can not be responsible. Good

Finally, the reading puts forward that gradual changes of climate may be to blame for the decline of the cedar trees, pointing out that the patterns of seasonal as well as day-to-day temperatures have changed in northwestern North America, and these changes have affected the root systems of yellow cedar trees, which may be capable of undermining the health of the whole tree, eventually killing it. The lecture however provides an alternative explanation in this point. The lecture asserts that many more trees are dying in the lower elevations where it is warmer than in the higher elevations where it is cold. such a phenomenon is against what is stated in the reading.