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Unit 2

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## **Unit 2 Annotated Bibliography**

### **Introduction:**

Politics has always been a controversial topic in the United States. The two main political parties are Republicans and Democrats. This means that America is also split majorly into two, half favoring Republicans and the other favoring Democrats. However, what doesn't change is the fact that they all want society to improve so that their lives can follow. One of the issues that would affect generations in America is climate change. It is an extremely difficult process to achieve what Americans want and need. In today's government, it is mainly the older generation who holds power and makes decisions for all Americans. One of the issues that would affect generations in America is climate change. The ages in Congress have not gotten any younger compared to the previous congress terms. The Congress is getting older, with the highest age of 87. Considering most politicians' ages, are they able to be

open and willing to accept new ideas and truly fulfill what the younger generations need?

**Citation 1:**

Dunlap, Riley E., and Araon M. McCright. "A widening gap: Republican and Democratic views on Climate Change." *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, vol. 50, no. 5, 2008, pp. 26–35, <https://doi.org/10.3200/envt.50.5.26-35>. accessed 11.4.2023

**Summary:**

The gaps between Democrats and Republicans on climate change have become wider. From the early 1970s until the mid-1990s, the percentage of Democrats that supported environmental protection was only 10% higher than the Republicans. This began to change after the 1990s. Leaders of the Republican Party had a highly skeptical view of global warming. According to the graphs attached to the article, most Republicans believe that global warming is exaggerated by the news. They did not believe global warming was caused by human activity. In addition, most Republicans did not think global warming would be a threat to their lifetime. In contrast, most Democrats believed in global warming and believed it was a threat.

**Reflection:**

The major gap between the Republicans and Democrats on the topic of global warming is concerning. The Republicans have 222 seats and the Democrats have 213 seats in Congress. This raises a serious concern as bills must be passed based on votes on behalf of Congress members before going to the president for further consideration. This means if the Republican side disapproved then the bill would be dismissed. Since the Republicans do not believe global warming is a threat, bills that promote reducing global warming are likely going to be disapproved. In other words, they believe that global warming is not a big deal so they would not focus and treat environmental issues seriously. This is a serious problem because multiple data out there prove the increase in temperature. The fact that the Republicans are ignoring scientific results is concerning. The future generations would be the ones suffering from the consequences of the inactions of Congress. We need more laws enforcing the prohibition of air pollution. As members of Congress, they should be doing everything in their power to prevent the decrease in quality of life from happening. The power they hold in hand is meant to protect us and improve our lives and they are failing in doing this one job that they have. With all these powers in hand, the older generations are not making decisions that are good enough to ensure a quality of life. They are not focusing on the right topics. Thus, this power needs and should be distributed in different age groups instead of just the older generations.

**Quote:**

The journal stated, “ It would appear that the vigorous conservative campaign against climate science (particularly the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC)) and climate change advocates (especially Al Gore) has contributed to leaders of the Republican Party adopting a highly skeptical view of global warming.”

**Citation 2:**

Habak, Claudine, et al. “Age Affects How Task Difficulty and Complexity Modulate Perceptual Decision-Making.” *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, vol. 11, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnagi.2019.00028>. accessed 11.4.2023

**Summary:**

In an experiment, two groups of people were given behavior tasks: young people (max 32 years old) and older people (max 82 years old). They were both given behavioral tasks and used fMRI analysis to measure the results. The longer it takes for the participants to take action, the harder the decision-making is. The result showed that the older participants took longer to respond to the behavior tasks. The result showed that the older participants took longer to respond to the behavior tasks.

According to the data, the percent of correct responses from younger participants was at an average of 77.95% at different levels of difficulty in the task and took an average of 1512.5 milliseconds. On the other hand, the older participants had an average of 80.4% on different levels of tasks and took an average of 1819.75 milliseconds.

**Reflection:**

This data proves that the younger generations can come to conclusions faster than the older ones. The government needs more young blood in its system. People who are in control now (older generations) are unable to fulfill the needs of today's society. They are ignoring real issues. Newer generations need newer adaptations from the government, its laws, and its decisions to keep up with the rapidly advancing technology and changes we see today. Ignoring rising temperatures isn't the way to do this. The younger generations should not be forced to suffer from the decisions made by older generations. The voices of younger generations are hardly taken into consideration even though they are the ones who are going to eventually uphold and govern America.

**Quote:**

The study stated, "This age-attributed valence could arise from general age-related performance or criterion biases in decision-making: many older participants express wanting to "do well" in experiments, and responses can tend toward the conservative with age."

**Citation 3:**

"Scientific Consensus: Earth's Climate Is Warming." *NASA*, NASA, 5 Aug. 2022, <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>. accessed Oct.31.2023

**Summary:**

The Earth has shown significant global warming since the 1980s. The last date drawn was in 2022. In addition, 2016 and 2020 are one of the warmest years since 1880. After gathering research from peer review studies, it is proven that human activity such as using fossil fuels directly causes the temperature to rise and its ocean basins to. Under these circumstances, the Earth's climate is impacted.

**Reflection:**

Climate change is an example that will affect not only the current generation but also the future generations, especially us, the Gen Z generation. The temperature has been rapidly increasing for the past few decades and it is still increasing in modern times. Global warming is still a threat to the human nation. Real data are provided and shown. Yet Congress did almost nothing to help with the situation as the temperature continues to rise. Moreover, the nation would go into a food shortage. The leaves of plants will wilt around 90 degrees Fahrenheit, plants will stop breathing to prevent water loss, and fewer flowers will be produced. If no actions are taken or if this is not taken seriously, we will suffer from high temperatures. The only law that was passed to help with air pollution was the Clean Air Act passed in the 1970s. Even though new changes were made in 2022, such as adding more restrictions, it was not enough. If nothing is done to stop this trend, it is clear that severe consequences will take place affecting the life quality of future generations even when the current Congress members decline.

**Quote:**

NASA stated, “It’s important to remember that scientists always focus on the evidence, not on opinions. Scientific evidence continues to show that human activities (primarily the human burning of fossil fuels) have warmed Earth’s surface and its ocean basins, which in turn have continued to impact Earth’s climate.”

**Conclusion:**

All Americans should join this battle to fight for America’s future. The voices of younger generations should be acknowledged and valued. The younger generations must take action to make this a reality. To have their voices heard, they need to select responsible, attentive representatives. The only way of achieving this is to join in the battle of voting since the only ones voting now are the older generation in America. To increase the voting percentage for the younger generations, the government should provide all resources related to the election. This can be achieved by posting major resources on social media like TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter, which most young people use daily. This way, new ideas can be shared and put to the test. Everyone should have a voice in the decisions that are going to affect the society they are a part of. This includes men, women, the elderly, and young adults. As more attention is drawn, there will be hope that those who hold power will hear what the people need, pushing America forward again. All in all, even though the battles between the two major political parties: republicans and democrats, will never end, we must remember the fighting is for improvements in America. People's voices need to be heard such that the government can make the right decisions that will push America forward.