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ENGL1121

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### **Unit 1 assignment speech first draft**

When I first learned about alternate energy sources, was all the way back when I still had to walk in a line with my whole class. It was one of the few times where I enjoyed doing research about a topic, I learned all about dams, solar panels, wind turbines, etc. Today I will be talking about climate change and how to help prevent it from developing further. As temperature continue to increase due to climate change, it is important to know the causes and how to help combat it. Lola Butcher on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 talks about the different ways civilizations are being affected by climate change when she says, “The threat is multifaceted. Prolonged droughts are causing malnutrition in Africa, while extreme heat is leading to spikes in heat stroke in places as diverse as Baltimore and Paris”. Generation Z are the next leaders of our home, so raising awareness of what’s happening to my generation is key in the fight to save the Earth. First, I will be talking about the how climate change threatens our existence. Following that, I will explain the causes of climate change, and finally, I will unfold how you can help prevent the progression of climate change.

Now with the increase in temperature, that’s causing different catastrophes around the globe. As glaciers in the north melt, the sea levels rise. William Wanlund on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 talks about how a naval station in Virginia deals with constants floods due to the rise in sea level. He says, “Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, the world's largest naval base and the headquarters of the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, is among the threatened facilities. Parts of the base

already flood 10 times a year during extreme high tides. Another effect of climate change would be the increase in droughts. Even with minuscule increases in the temperature, it can drastically drop the water levels of rivers in many areas. Jennifer Weeks on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, says, “With a 2-degree rise in temperature, the average amount of water flowing yearly through the Danube, Mississippi and Amazon River basins would fall 20 to 40 percent, while flow in the Nile and Ganges River basins would rise by about 20 percent.”

Now that we’ve talked about the effects of climate change, let’s begin on what’s causing climate change. A big factor of what’s causing the Earth to get so hot is the huge amount of greenhouse gas emissions that come from the burning of fossil fuels. Which is our main source of energy worldwide. Jennifer Weeks on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 compares the CO<sub>2</sub> levels of the world before the industrial revolution and of 2013 when she says, “Before the Industrial Revolution, Earth's atmosphere contained about 280 parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub>. Now, numerous scientific studies warn, GHG concentrations have reached levels that will cause drastic warming with widespread consequences.” The CO<sub>2</sub> levels are rising so much because of our heavy use of fossil fuels, like with factories and our cars. All the Carbon Dioxide is creating a layer in our atmosphere that is trapping all the heat.

Now that we’ve discussed the causes, now let’s discuss how we can prevent any more growth. One solution would be the further development in geoengineering research. Jennifer Weeks on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 explains two methods at which geoengineers wish to control how much energy the sun emits to the Earth and to get rid of all the CO<sub>2</sub> that’s trapping all the heat on Earth when she says, “Shooting small particles into Earth's upper atmosphere to reflect incoming sunlight back into space. Dumping large quantities of iron into the oceans to stimulate the growth of pollution-eating plankton.” Another solution would be the use of alternate energy

sources, such as solar panels and dams. If we're able to reduce the amount of fossil fuels being burned, the CO2 levels won't rise so drastically. With solar power, wind power, hydroelectricity, it's all "clean" energy sources. Matt Mossman on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, says "Worldwide, renewable energy is expected to meet almost 30 percent of demand for electricity by 2023... Today, renewables meet about 25 percent of the world's electricity demand." Mossman shows how the need for fossil fuels is coming to an end. Now for that to happen, research in these alternate energy sources needs to develop further. With your help, you can help fund this research by sending a donation to either the Hydropower foundation or the Solar Foundation.

<https://www.hydrofoundation.org/>

<https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/>

Before we end off, let's talk about our generation and what we can do ourselves. Each of us have reached their twenties or have just entered middle school, what we all can do while we're all still young is that we must continue to gather knowledge, further progress our minds to be better prepared when we are in the hotseat, and the previous generation have become unable to join the fight against climate change. The knowledge we gather now is essential because as time continues to move, our technology continues to evolve. With the knowledge we have previously gathered, we will be at the forefront when it comes to operating the new advancements in technology. Additionally, we will be the ones that the next generation will be looking up to.

A little recap, we first talked about how the Earth and its people are being affected by climate change. We then discussed, what is causing the increase in temperatures around the world. Finally, we talked about the different solutions to climate change.

All in all, we can conclude that climate change is a serious threat and needs to be dealt with before it's too late. People around the world are at risk of death by flood, drought, etc. But that doesn't mean all hope is lost because geoengineering and alternate energy research are continuing to develop, which will help keep us all safe. Our generation must come together to protect the home we've lived on for so long, spreading awareness between each other and then through personal discourse communities, will come a long way in the preservation of our world.

## Annotated Bibliography

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