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U2 Annotated Bibliography

Introduction

My question for this research project is, “What action is taking place to reduce the negative effects of climate change?” The reason why I am interested in this question is because when I was in high school, I had a marine biology teacher named Mr. Pessen. He was incredibly passionate about our planet so he would often share his thoughts regarding climate change and how humans are destroying our ecosystem.

To me, hearing Mr. Pessen go on and on about how we can make the world a better place inspired me to become aware of my actions and how they were affecting the environment. In this research, I expect to find negative findings like theories hypothesizing that our planet will not last much longer. I find myself to be a realist when it comes to climate change because the facts are in the statistics regarding fossil fuel emission. Though, part of me wants to have faith that society is on the right track to combating global warming.

Source Entries

Citation #1: “Climate Change: Frequently Asked Questions.” The Nature Conservancy, 9 Dec. 2018, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/climate-change-frequently-asked-questions/>.

Summary: The climate change issue I chose to research touches upon what is taking place to prevent the negative effects of climate change. According to the article, the Nature Conservancy suggests in order to reduce global warming” humans must reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.” This would most likely be possible to achieve if the government is willing to fund this transition. The article emphasizes how even if the human population can reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, we would still have to adapt to the impact of global warming. The article also states that the Nature Conservancy is taking active steps to tackle climate change such as: building resilience through natural defenses and of vulnerable ecosystems.

Reflection: I agree with the text because humans are the main cause of global warming! The sooner we can acknowledge that, the sooner we can unite and make a difference in Earth’s health. Additionally, the article I chose to read for this assignment has reassured me as well as answered my question regarding what is being done to nurture our planet. There are various donations being made to fund the changes that need to be made. For example, planting trees and cleaning our oceans from debris and oil spills.

Quotation: The wildlife we love and their habitat will be destroyed, leading to mass species extinction. Superstorms, drought, and heat waves would become increasingly common and more extreme, leading to major health crises and illness. The truth is there is not a hard and fast deadline on climate action vs. inaction. Some studies and articles suggest that unless we make significant progress towards decarbonization (reducing carbon from the atmosphere and

replacing fossil fuels in our economies) by 2030, we may be facing catastrophic climate impacts that would overwhelm our communities and pose an existential threat to certain ecosystems.

Citation #2: Clinton, Bill, and Al Gore. *The Climate Change Action Plan*. Executive Office of the President, 1993.

Summary: This book grabbed my attention immediately, the first chapter states, “We should strive to do no less; ultimately we will have to do more.” (Clinton, 1993) He mentions how climate change requires immediate action that takes vision and discipline. In a way, this book seems motivational because Clinton expresses how teamwork is how we will notice a positive difference in climate change. In the overview, the President’s Climate Change Action Plan was presented that listed numerous plans to tackle climate change. This action plan is a response to the threat of global warming, and it assists the United States economy toward good environmental health standing. This book also breaks down technologies and scientific research that has been presented such as a partnership with the Department of Energy and electric utilities that have pledged to use less greenhouse gas emissions.

Reflection: This source was my favorite because it’s incredibly intricate and I enjoyed reading the thoughts on climate change by Clinton and Al Gore. They understand the weight climate change has on our world and prioritize the risk at hand. In this book, Clinton and Al Gore discuss a new treaty the Clinton administration has created for the commitment to the United States by lowering greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global warming. It’s reassuring to me when there’s legal action taking place to alleviate the negative effects of climate change. I also think about how many people started to take climate change more seriously after this treaty was made.

This was done back in 2000 so I am grateful the topic of climate change is not something unheard of or ignored.

Quotation: “The good news is that climate change is not an impossible problem. We know what causes it and what to do to stop it. It will take courage, ambition and details beyond lofty announcements. Global climate change is a long-term problem that will require years of sustained effort. The time for action is now. The truth is there is not a hard and fast deadline on climate action vs. inaction. Some studies and articles suggest that unless we make significant progress towards decarbonization (reducing carbon from the atmosphere and replacing fossil fuels in our economies) by 2030, we may be facing catastrophic climate impacts that would overwhelm our communities and pose an existential threat to certain ecosystems.”

Citation #3: Gore, Al. “The case for optimism on climate change.” TED, February 2016, https://www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_the_case_for_optimism_on_climate_change

Summary: This TED talk teaches people the main reason for climate change that is said to be global carbon fuel by Al Gore. This TED talk is a positive lecture discussing whether or not people have to change their actions in order to combat global warming. Al Gore states that there is a plethora of causes to global warming such as: Coal mining, air transport, industrial processes, land transportation, forest burning and so on. Some of those causes is out of our hands to control because we do not have the authority to make a change. Additionally, he also responds to the destruction that is currently happening in our oceans and how the ocean is where most of the pollution is. Let’s take into consideration how often oils spills occur and all of the debris that resides underwater. Al Gore also mentions new efficient technology that is used to save energy and reduce the emission of fossil fuels.

Reflection: First off, TED talks are one of my favorite videos to watch. What I found most interesting in this TED talk named “The case for optimism on climate change” was when Al Gore explained what “flying rivers” are. He explained that this is a term made by Brazilian scientists that have discovered these flying rivers are air currents bringing water vapor generated by forests into different regions. He then said that the downpours from these flying rivers are equivalent to two days of water from Niagara Falls. Additionally, Al Gore mentioned that communication is key. The more we talk about climate change and the possibilities there are to making a difference in the world can motivate others to join the community to help save the environment.

Quotation: “More good news: energy storage, from batteries particularly, is now beginning to take off because the cost has been coming down very dramatically to solve the intermittency problem. With solar, the news is even more exciting! There are people in this audience who played an incredibly significant role in generating those exponential curves. And it didn’t work out economically for some of them, but it kick-started this global revolution. And what people in this audience do now with the knowledge that we are going to win this. But it matters a lot how fast we win it.”

Conclusion:

My research regarding climate change has reassured me by validating how people who have positions of authority are making steady efforts to alleviate the negative effects of global warming. The research conducted has confirmed that the government has been avidly taking steps to limit manufactured pollution. To me, I believe that the president should take charge and display their leadership skills of this action plan toward climate change. I understand there is a long list of issues that must be addressed in America but the way I see it, if a healthy planet does

not exist, how can govern it? Global warming is a priority and should not be overlooked. Time is of the essence and if global warming is ignored, we're doomed. On a positive note, if activists such as Al Gore continue to use their voice along with science, we can spread awareness and finally be in control of climate change. Consequently, the facts I have read based on my research- I have high hopes for our planet and I believe that we have the capacity to save our world from extinction.