

Fifi Freeheart

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10H English: 1B

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### Climate Change Can No Longer Be Ignored

Typically in Kansas, February logs some of the coldest temperatures of the year with the average highs in the 40s and the lows in the 20s. However, this February, seventeen out of twenty-nine days have been 50 degrees or higher, and four of those days logged highs in 70s (Accuweather). Though the milder temperatures are welcomed by many people as a nice break from winter, unseasonal temperatures for over half a month should raise some concerns. Too many people still do not believe climate change is a problem, but unseasonal temperatures can be cited throughout the world, not just in Kansas. This suggests that debating whether climate change--formerly referred to as global warming--is real has become moot. **Despite persisting beliefs that climate change is a myth, climate change does have a significant enough impact to warrant concern.**

**The debate about global warming became more well-known after Al Gore released *An Inconvenient Truth*, a film that highlights the dangers climate change brings to society.** Though the legitimacy of the facts from that film has been debated, it was a catalyst to conversations about a potential problem, and those talks led to governments discussing policy changes.

*According to Climate Change: Debating America's Policy Options*, "Because the emissions that cause climate change are global in scope, successive administrations have attempted to coordinate policy with other countries" (Victor 1). Essentially, what Victor points out is that world leaders felt climate change was important enough to discuss and try to agree on a global

**Commented [1]:** The opening sentence establishes currency and relevancy of the issue.

I decided to start with the idea of pleasant temperatures because most people enjoy the change and can connect to it.

The next sentences challenge the thinking that nice temperatures are to be celebrated. This allows me to build to my thesis that states the position of climate change being worthy of attention.

**Commented [2]:** Thesis statement is the LAST sentence of the intro

**Commented [3]:** Wrote a topic sentence to introduce introductory material from the source grid.

**Commented [4]:** This is not something that needs to be cited on the works cited page because it is well-known what the main idea of the film is. If I had taken a specific quote or information, then I would need to cite it.

policy on the issue. Victor also states, "In 1995 numerous governments launched a diplomatic process to strengthen the convention, culminating in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol" (2). The Kyoto Protocol was an agreement to reduce greenhouse gasses around the world. However well-intended the Kyoto Protocol was, there have not been significant enough reductions to slow or reduce the impact of climate change. Though climatologists and scientists today have more and better evidence that the climate is changing and impacting the world, big changes to policy and human behavior have not been seen large scale. In the article "Why We Don't Give a Damn," George Marshall and Mark Lynas explore possible reasons why: "The answer lies in our evolutionary heritage: we defend ourselves against specific predators and rival tribes of humans. We are 'hard-wired' to mobilise rapidly in response to clear and immediate dangers" (147). Marshall and Lynas's point is that climate change does not trigger a fear from an eminent danger. Their theory about hard-wired defense mechanisms is useful because it sheds light on why people have not respond quickly to possible dangers of climate change, despite a growing body of scientific evidence.

Many believe that climate change evidence is sensationalized and exaggerated; however, these conspiracy theories threaten efforts to lessen our carbon footprint. Part of what contributes to resistance to climate change policy, according to Naomi Oreskes, is mistrust of the government: "Opponents of an international treaty on climate change have allowed their hostility to government not only to lead them to deny the facts of climate change but also to spill over into conspiratorial thinking" (Oreskes). Oreskes's argument seems accurate based on the growing anti-government sentiment seen in the news and on social media. Fear of government control feeds conspiracy theories, which causes people to ignore facts and even resist ideas that are in their best interests. In fact, Karen M. Douglas and Robbie M. Sutton agree when they write,

**Commented [5]:** Because I stated the author's name in the lead-in, I don't need to include it with the in-text citation. Just include the page number.

If there is no page number (web or Database), use a template that references source title or author's expertise instead of author name. That way you still have something in the in-text citation.

**Commented [6]:** This sentences helps to transition to the next idea. I want to discuss why little has changed in 20 years.

**Commented [7]:** Notice the punctuation on this type of lead-in to the quote. This is a complete sentence that calls for the quote to support and clarify. The correct punctuation is to use a colon (:) after the lead-in statement. Then quote.

The in-text citation is just the page number because I reference Marshall and Lynas in the lead-in.

**Commented [MC8]:** This paragraph is a background/historical context paragraph.

**Commented [9]:** This **TOPIC SENTENCE** shows that the paragraph will be introducing an **COUNTERARGUMENT** and **REFUTING** it.

Words like "however," "but," "although," "even though," "whereas," "despite," and "while," naturally set up the contrasting opinions. Keep this in mind as you write your topic sentences.

"Such theories typically postulate that global warming is not happening and instead that scientific findings are being exaggerated or fabricated by people who have something to gain. Because they all have this thread in common, they are often referred to collectively as the Great Global Warming Conspiracy" (100). In making this comment, Douglas and Sutton highlight the mentality that keeps a conspiracy theory alive despite evidence refuting its validity. Even though the first reaction may be to ignore the "conspiracy nuts," Douglas and Sutton point out why studying and understanding their beliefs is important: "Exploring the impact of climate change conspiracy theories is timely and important. They cannot be dismissed as trivial or harmless. Governments and environmental professionals need to be aware that conspiracy theories may be detrimental to their efforts to encourage pro-environmental action" (104). Douglas and Sutton's point is that climate change conspiracy theories prevent the public from accepting the impact of climate change or from wanting to do anything about it. Therefore, if efforts to reduce individuals' carbon footprints are to succeed, the conspiracy theory needs to be targeted, not ignored. Perhaps the best way to alter these perceptions is to emphasize what the short and long-term impacts of climate change are.

A warmer, milder climate may seem appealing at first, but climate change upsets the balance of healthy ecosystems, which has long-term impacts. One ecosystem that has received a lot of attention is the coral reef. Coral reefs are very sensitive to changes in temperature, but some experts, according to the book *How Serious a Threat Is Climate Change?*, argue that "[. . .] the evidence does not support the loss of coral reefs. Geologist Ian Pilmer says that coral has managed to survive on earth for at least 500 million years during periods in which the temperatures of the planet's oceans were higher than they are now" (Marcovitz 55). Though I concede that ecosystems have historically shown resilience and survived climate changes, Pilmer

**Commented [10]:** This is a lengthier quote. If it had spilled over onto a fifth line, then I would have to use a **BLOCK QUOTE**, which is formatted differently.

If you have a quote that does this, see me. However, you should not have more than 1 block quote for this essay. If you do, you are relying too heavily on source material.

Additionally, block quotes also require more analysis and explanation. This essay probably needs one more sentence before moving to the next point.

**Commented [MC11]:** Borderline **INFLAMMATORY LANGUAGE**.

**Commented [12]:** Notice how this helps to **TRANSITION** to the next idea.

**Commented [13]:** **TRANSITION:** refers back to concluding sentence in previous paragraph

**Commented [14]:** Sometimes you do have to agree with the opposition.

But this sentence is also an example of the agree/disagree **TEMPLATE**.

may overlook how rapidly the current climate has changed. Because the temperature has warmed more quickly, the careful balance of the coral reef ecosystem cannot adapt as well. According to Hal Marcovitz, "[Scientists] say that the rising temperature of the ocean water has been killing off algae, which serves as a source of food for coral colonies" (53). Without this algae, the coral reef remains a pale white color and it is not as strong, making it more difficult to fight disease. If the coral reef dies off, then the ocean becomes more acidic, which can harm other ecosystems. This shows how far-reaching the impacts of climate change can be.

Climate change, however, affects more than ocean ecosystems. When the temperatures in temperate climates, like the Midwest, do not get cold enough during the winter, the mosquito population worsens. Some researchers, according to *The Straits Times*, believe that the recent Zika outbreak is linked to climate change: "Climate change may have fueled the outbreak of the mosquito-borne Zika virus in Latin American and make it harder for developing countries to manage future epidemics, researchers said" ("Scientists Say Climate Change May Have Fueled Zika Outbreak"). The article goes on to explain how the increased temperatures

**Commented [MC15]:** Link back to topic sentence and thesis statement. This is what a **CONCLUDING SENTENCE** should do.

**Commented [16]:** Notice that **NONE** of the topic sentences use source material. They are all my own ideas and words.

**Commented [17]:** This **TOPIC SENTENCE** shows that I am continuing to develop the idea of long-term impacts. Sometimes you will need multiple paragraphs to develop a main idea. Each paragraph needs a topic sentence to help transition and introduce the idea shift.

**Commented [MC18]:** Essay would continue to develop.

Essay at this point is about 1100 words. Need 900 more to meet minimum.

The essay needs to do a little more to address the **COUNTERARGUMENTS**. The topic sentences reference opposition but only once cites a source to legitimize the **COUNTERCLAIMS**.

## Works Cited

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**Climate\_Change.html?id=4Bs1J0TmhJcC.**

**Commented [19]:** As I have used quotes from the source grid, I have bold-faced the sources on my WCP. At the end of the essay, if it is not bold-faced (unused) then it should be deleted.

Also note that if you add a source from the original sources, then you need to add that to this WCP and bold-face it.

If you look back at my intro, you will see a fact with the in-text citation (Accuweather). That source is not on here. It needs to be added before I finish the rough draft.

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**Commented [21]:** You can easily see if you used a source by hitting Ctrl + F. Search for the first word of the WCP entry. If it doesn't pop up more than once, then you either didn't use the source or didn't cite it correctly. Check to see which is correct.

In this case, I hit Ctrl + F and searched for "Mooney." It only finds 1 instance, so after checking, I know I haven't used this source.

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