



Climate Champions: Balancing Personal and Societal Responsibility

Writing Prompt



Recycling

No litter

Solar panels

Plant trees

Clean up

Australia
a Day



Electric cars

Write a persuasive essay arguing whether individual actions or systemic changes are more crucial in addressing climate change. Use at least 8 vocabulary words from the list in your writing.

EV incentives



Treaties

Laws/ restrictions

Policies



1. The significant impact of policies and treaties on a global scale
2. Individual recycling and 'clean up Australia' day are examples of minor solutions to climate change- don't have that a big of an impact
3. System changes actually influence individual actions

Introduction



As the effects of climate change become increasingly apparent, the debate over who bears the responsibility for action intensifies. While governments and corporations play a significant role, the impact of individual choices is also under scrutiny. This week, students will explore the complex interplay between personal actions and systemic changes in addressing climate change. They will analyse data, consider ethical implications, and develop arguments about the most effective approaches to combat this global challenge.



Persuasive Outline



1. The Climate Crisis: Current State
2. Individual Actions: Impact and Limitations
3. Systemic Changes: Government and Corporate Responsibility
4. Balancing Act: Combining Personal and Collective Efforts
5. Future Scenarios: Projecting Climate Outcomes

CASE STUDIES- MEMORISE THEM

STATISTICS= 8-9 inch
rise in
seas levels

The Climate Crisis: Current State



Indonesia- top 10 greenhouse
gas emitters

10-12 inches in the next 30 years
(accelerating rapidly)

Maldives, Marshall Islands, US East
Coast

Setting the Scene:

- Overview of recent
climate data and trends
- Visible impacts of
climate change globally
- Key contributors to
greenhouse gas emissions

Typhoon in Shanghai (strongest
since 1949)

→ Thailand record high temp (heatwaves)

Exemplars:

Flooding Dubai

1. "Dr. Amelia Chen points to a graph showing rising global temperatures. 'This isn't just a line on a chart,' she explains to the rapt audience. 'It represents more frequent heatwaves, stronger storms, and rising sea levels affecting millions worldwide.'"

Typhoon Hong Kong

2. "Eleven-year-old Zoe stares out the window at the smoky sky, a result of yet another wildfire season. 'Mom, why does summer feel different now?' she asks, her voice tinged with worry. Her mother sighs, unsure how to explain the complex reality of climate change to her daughter."

3. "At the UN Climate Summit, delegates from island nations stand united. 'Our homes are disappearing beneath the waves,' their spokesperson declares. 'This isn't a future problem - it's happening now.'"

individual Actions: impact and Limitations



- Analysis of common personal climate actions (recycling, reducing meat consumption, etc.)
- Calculation of individual carbon footprints
- Psychological aspects of individual action (eco-anxiety, feeling of helplessness)

Ban meat (government)

Exemplars:

1. "The school cafeteria buzzes with debate. 'I've gone vegan to reduce my carbon footprint,' says Alex proudly. His friend Jamal counters, 'But is that enough when big companies keep polluting?' Their classmates listen, unsure which side to take."

PLANE

2. "Emma stares at her family's carbon footprint calculation in dismay. 'Even after all our efforts, it's still so high,' she murmurs. Her father nods, 'It shows how deeply embedded carbon is in our society. Maybe individual action isn't the whole solution.'"

FACTORY

3. "At the community centre, eco-anxiety support group members share their feelings. 'I do everything 'right' - I recycle, I bike, I use renewable energy,' says Sarah, her voice cracking. 'But the climate keeps getting worse. What's the point of trying?'"

Individual efforts from small percentage (probably not enough to outdo huge corporations and bulk of population)

Legal enforcement vs individual responsibility

Systemic Changes: Government and Corporate Responsibility



BALI

- Examination of current climate policies and their effectiveness
- Analysis of corporate contributions to emissions and greenwashing practices
- Case studies of successful large-scale climate initiatives

TREATIES (GLOBAL WARMING)

CHINA'S EV POLICY- ban on petrol cars- achieving carbon neutrality from pollution

Exemplars:

Paris Agreement-

1. "In the city council meeting, Mayor Rodriguez presents a bold climate plan. 'By redesigning our public transport and energy systems, we can cut emissions by 50% in five years,' she declares. The room erupts in a mix of cheers and sceptical murmurs.

Its overarching goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."

2. "Investigative journalist Mark Chen scowls at his computer screen. 'This company claims to be 'green,' but their emissions have actually increased,' he mutters, uncovering yet another case of corporate greenwashing."

3. "At the Global Climate Conference, the Danish representative takes the stage. 'Our nationwide transition to wind power proves that systemic change is possible,' she asserts. 'It required political will, corporate cooperation, and public support - but the results speak for themselves.'"

Balancing Act: Combining Personal and Collective Efforts



- Exploration of how individual actions can drive systemic change
- Discussion of the role of education and awareness in climate action
- Analysis of grassroots movements and their impact on policy

Exemplars:

1. "The school's Eco Club is in session. 'Our individual actions might seem small,' says the president, Lily, 'but together, we've influenced the school board to adopt solar panels. This is how personal choices become collective change.'"
2. "Professor Kumar addresses his environmental science class: 'Your individual actions matter not just for their direct impact, but because they shape social norms. When you choose sustainability, you influence others around you.'"
3. "At the climate march, 10-year-old Aiden holds a sign reading 'Policy Change Now!' His mother smiles proudly. 'He understands that his personal choices and his voice calling for systemic change are both crucial,' she tells a reporter."

Future Scenarios: Projecting Climate Outcomes



- Introduction to climate modelling and future projections
- Comparison of outcomes based on different levels of action
- Discussion of potential technological solutions and their limitations

Exemplars:

1. "In the virtual reality lab, students don headsets to experience potential future scenarios. 'This is our city in 2050 if we take strong action now,' the instructor explains, as the students marvel at the green, resilient cityscape. Then the scene shifts: 'And this is if we don't.' Gasps fill the room at the stark contrast."
2. "Climate scientist Dr. Patel presents to the school board. 'Even if we stopped all emissions today, we'd still see impacts for years to come,' he explains. 'But every fraction of a degree we prevent matters enormously for future generations.'"
3. "At the Science Fair, Mia stands proudly by her project: a comparison of various carbon capture technologies. 'These could be part of the solution,' she tells the judges, 'but they're not a silver bullet. We still need to reduce emissions dramatically.'"

Vocabulary List

1. **Mitigation:** Reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions
2. **Adaptation:** Adjusting to actual or expected climate changes and its effects
3. **Carbon footprint:** The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of one's activities
4. **Renewable energy:** Energy from a source that is not depleted when used
5. **Sustainability:** Meeting present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs

Vocabulary List

6. **Biodiversity:** The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat
7. **Ecosystem:** A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment
8. **Greenhouse effect:** Warming that results when the atmosphere traps heat radiating from Earth toward space
9. **Carbon sequestration:** The process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide
10. **Climate resilience:** The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events related to climate

Vocabulary List

11. Tipping point: The point at which a series of small changes becomes significant enough to cause a larger, more important change
12. Circular economy: An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources
13. Environmental justice: Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to environmental laws and policies
14. Greenwashing: Disinformation disseminated by an organisation to present an environmentally responsible public image
15. Carbon neutral: Making no net release of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere