

Take a moment to pause your actions and envision an acidic wasteland unveiling parched grounds, and ruptured chasms as you walk on the planet. Envision acrid bloodstained gravestones of long forgotten aquatic animals floating on the ocean, acidified into corpses. Envision the thickening torrent of heat bouncing against the clouds. This isn't a hypothetical scenario existing in a dystopian world; this is the image we are painting right now. Look at Antarctica's glaciers, tranquil Gargantuas, decimated by the fumes produced by factories. Watch Mother Earth's fauna perish when faced with the extreme weather conditions and smoke that humans create. View the ocean, the beginning of all life, demonise into the militant tyrant that it can be now, drowning coastal cities, and ebbing for more. These effects are already hinting at the oppressive future that is waiting to happen, and with each carbon dioxide particle we add to the environment, we further contort life. Do we want to drown our own homes? I implore you, my companionable classmates and esteemed teachers, to weigh the responsibility of climate change on our backs, for climate change isn't just a problem; it's a pernicious maelstrom of terror.

Today, I speak to you not only as a fellow student, but as an advocate for what countless generations failed to do. We have burnt our future children's smiles, because of relentless wildfires. We have paralysed and struck our future children's hearts with piercing lightning. We have drowned our future children's conversations with typhoons. I once heard my grandmother sobbing as she said her last words, "This isn't the world I wanted to leave you in". How can you sleep at night knowing that your grandchildren will perish because of your actions? My very voice reflects everything the world has ignored, everything that has been deemed a problem for the future. But that future never comes. Climate change isn't tomorrow's issue. Climate change isn't for someone to do. Climate change is our problem, and only if we start now, we will end before calamity strikes Earth. For, if not us, who else is there to step up and save the world?

A deeper truth emerges still. In December of 2019, a devastating pandemic occurred, causing the deaths of almost 7 million humans. The same is happening with animals, as they feverishly panic upon sight of unnatural wildfires and cataclysmic tsunamis. Here in Australia, alive with the symphony of cacophonous cockatoo calls and rustles of dry Eucalyptus leaves, animals live teetering on oceans of gasoline, unknowingly waiting for their homes to be set alight. This fiery blaze is the pinnacle of doom, erupting from each plume of smoke released into the air. Our hope is dying. Our future is dying. Our world is dying. We have already started the sixth major mass extinction, with our pollution imprisoning the lives of animals, creating a dystopian vortex before we ever realised.

Scientists from the Save Australia Organisation predict that if we continue producing carbon dioxide molecules, by 2100, 1 third of the cities off the eastern coast of Australia, such as Gold Coast will inevitably sink under the ocean due to human caused typhoons, and the melting of Antarctica. This highlights that your impact alone may cause your children to be in an apocalypse when they see Earth, a deceased devoid inferno. Further research shows that multitudes of aquatic animals will die not from extreme weather, but the insidious acidification of the ocean, as the acidification rates reach a tremendous 150% larger than in millions of years. In 100 - 300 years into the future, we may even expect to see species extinctions from climate change. These statistics aren't just meaningless values, they show us that action upon climate change is not to be delayed, and that otherwise, we will see the

malevolent, corrupted form of Nature, the one that destroys civilisations with a single footstep.

Some may still argue that climate mitigation plans are economically unstable, creating financial problems and job losses, and could fail, wasting the large investments. I accept this perspective as it combines both the element of practicality and it looks at future negative possibilities, offering a unique outlook in this debate. However, this view does not acknowledge the long term problems of climate change, and focuses on the ephemeral problems of climate change. Though the path may be serpentine and labyrinthine it is essential to not fall into the trap of short-term success, as by doing this, we are fleetingly partying at the cost of humanity as a whole.

So what must we do to abolish climate change from our world? We must transcend our school into an eco-haven, starting the protest against climate change. First, the barren roofs of our school must be armoured with glistening solar panels, harnessing the sun's gargantuan power into raw, green energy. Additionally, the canteen of our school needs to have a back garden, not only providing organic, nutrient-rich fruits, but also soldier-like flora that inhale carbon dioxide. Second, each of us must scrutinise our daily carbon footprint, including daily transport, energy consumption and product purchasing. Third, we must amplify our voices to a global audience, and persuade others to join the Green Team Committee(GTC). Together we can eradicate the climate crisis.

As I stand here, persuading others to join the GTC, remember that each passing moment you are letting slip by is a person lost to the future. Each minute that you waste is a city drowned to Nature. Each day that is ignored brings the rest of the world's work fall. And so, as the sun dawns, I ask you, do you want to be the saviour of centuries to come, or the executioner of humanity, the demolisher of a triumphant species; the annihilator of a unique kind; the betrayer of a team. For if we let climate change unlock our doors of safety, where else in the vast universe is there another Earth to live on. This is our responsibility. Our world. Our opportunity. And your choice.