

Global View - Global Warming (C0102)

A: And therefore, global warming is the greatest deception of the early 21st century. Questions?

B: Uh... yeah. In the lecture you said there's more evidence in the scientific record supporting global cooling?

A: Well, yes, essentially, the historical record supports a theory of climate cycles. Warming and cooling are cooperating processes in the planetary eco-system.

B: If that's true and the planet is getting cooler, what explains the rapid melting of the polar ice caps and the dramatic rise in the global average temperatures?

A: But are global temperatures rising? If you look at the data from nineteen seventy-five you'll...

B: You' ll be misled. If you were serious, you would look at the record starting in the 1880' s. Then you would see how dramatically the earth' s temperature has changed.

A: Young lady, I beg to differ. Look, the point of the lecture was to emphasize that there is evidence for both sides, and I'm putting forth the argument that there's greater evidence in support of the global cooling hypothesis. Look, it's an indisputable fact that the public is being manipulated and scared into believing there' s some kind of climate crisis; this scaremongering is done, quite simply, for political reasons.

B: But even without the uncomfortable reality that greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide contribute to global warming, isn' t the topic appropriate for politicians to discuss?

A: Not if they want to use your tax dollars and mine to fund completely unnecessary initiatives.

B: Yeah, like conservation, protecting endangered species and investing in renewable energy. At the very least, you have to concede that this debate has the potential to end our dependence on foreign oil. Buying oil supports autocratic countries that use these revenues to devastating ends.

A: Why, I' ve never been so disrespected in all of my days. I' m a professor, a scientist and researcher of high regard.

B: Yeah, and a duplicitous one at that. Everyone knows you' re in the pocket of the oil lobby. Why should we trust your so-called findings more than tobacco institute studies which say smoking doesn' t harm health? You' re full of it.

A: Some people just cannot handle civil debate!

Key Vocabulary

planetary

Adjective

of or relating to planets

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| eco-system | <i>common noun, sin- gular</i> | everything that exists in a certain environ- ment |
| mislead | <i>verb</i> | be led to make believe something not true |
| global warm- ing | <i>common noun, non- variable</i> | the increase of the world's temperature due to po |
| beg to differ | <i>phrase</i> | a polite way to show you do not agree with someone |
| deception | <i>common noun, sin- gular</i> | the act of making oth- ers believe something false |
| polar ice cap | <i>common noun, plu- ral</i> | the thick layer of ice or snow on the poles |
| emphasize | <i>verb</i> | highlight |
| put forth | <i>verb</i> | give out, announce the public |

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|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| indisputable | <i>Adjective</i> | so true that does not need to be discussed anymore |
| manipulate | <i>verb</i> | influence someone's ideas for your own benefit |
| scaremongering | <i>common noun, non-variable</i> | saying something so as to frighten people |
| greenhouse gas | <i>common noun, plural</i> | a gas that increases the global temperature |
| endangered species | <i>common noun, plural</i> | type of animal in danger of dying out |
| concede | <i>verb</i> | to say that you do not deny something's true |
| autocratic | <i>Adjective</i> | with total power |
| end | <i>common noun, plural</i> | result or outcome |
| duplicitous | <i>Adjective</i> | deceiving, dishonest |

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|------------------|------------------|--|
| in the pocket of | <i>phrase</i> | being illegally bribed or paid by someone |
| so-called | <i>Adjective</i> | used to show the name is not really suitable |

Supplementary Vocabulary

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| climate change | <i>common noun, non-variable</i> | the change in the world's temperature and weather patterns |
| fossil fuel | <i>common noun, singular</i> | fuel made with dead animals or plants such as oil, gas, natural gas |
| deforestation | <i>common noun, non-variable</i> | the action of cutting down forests |
| emission | <i>common noun, singular</i> | the act of producing gas |
| endorse | <i>verb</i> | support a point of view |