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| Structural features | As I am speaking to you, our planet is being destroyed, damaged and demolished. NASA reports that “Nineteen of the 20 warmest years have all occurred since 2001” (NASA, 2020). Mother Nature is suffering all because of humans’ egotistical choices. Endorsed by leading scientific organisations and agreed upon by 97% of climate scientists is the fact that “climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities” (NASA, 2020). The industrialisation, technological advances and globalisation of the world has made each one of us a predator to the earth’s precious resources merely for our own convenience. So what do you value more; your accessibility to superfluous products or the continuance of the planet?  In the face of this catastrophe it is easy to feel overwhelmed and afraid. However, you can do something. We all can; as long as we do it together. I’ve heard people say they don’t believe, as one person, they can make a difference. Conversely, Martin Luther King, Jr. once told us “There is power in numbers and there is power in unity.” This eloquent leader proved, that if we stand together, we *can* create change.  Good morning, I’m Josie Smith. I’m here today as a representative member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. I’m here to offer you suggestions of how we can lead the activism essential for our planet. You must follow the footsteps of our advocate predecessors; join the coalition, the next generation – use your power to protect our earth and humanity. This is no longer a distant, futuristic issue; it is currently “disrupting national economies and affecting lives… Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, weather events are becoming more extreme and greenhouse gas emissions are now at their highest levels in history” (UN, 2020). You are not incognizant to these increasingly disastrous statistics; you observe this happening around you. So will you join us or will you tell your children you stood by and did nothing to prevent this global catastrophe?  It is distinctly evident that our planet needs us. Geoscience Australia confirms the obvious; with extreme heat and rainfall deficiencies bushfires will intensify. Last year smoke was seen from space as the world’s largest tropical forest, the Amazon, was in embers (Stephens, 2019). More locally, the recent bushfires in Australia at the turn of the decade have highlighted the increasing impacts of climate change. 27 innocent people died and 2,131 homes were lost (Morrison, 2020). It seems the only way the human race will resolve its self-inflicted wound, the only way we will survive, is by standing united at the grassroots level. These steps have already begun. Half a billion dollars was raised between celebrities and every day Australians, which contributed to this fundraiser being the biggest ever in response to an Australian disaster ([Cuthbertson](https://www.smh.com.au/by/debbie-cuthbertson-hvf2y) and [Irvine](https://www.smh.com.au/by/jessica-irvine-1mfrxv), 2020). The citizens of our island nation not only contributed money in order to assist their fellow country-people. In addition, they protested. Thousands of Australians marched together on the 10th of January across nine cities to accentuate their concern for the lack of action of the Australian government (Yeung, 2020). We know from countless time-wasting press conferences our leaders are not willing to admit the climate’s temperature is warming, let alone formulate a proposal to solve it. Our politicians have an unapologetic cognitive dissonance. Hence, it is left up to us to coalesce to prevent exacerbation of this environmental disaster.  Subsequently, the evasion of the government has provided the people with an opportunity to show solidarity. Although the recent impact of climate change has caused deniers to revaluate their views, sinister government MPs are developing reactive, rather than proactive, strategies. In early January this year, Scott Morrison suggested [on ABC’s 7.30](https://www.pm.gov.au/media/interview-michael-rowland-abc-730) that as individuals we are the ones who need to “adapt and improve resilience” rather than taking responsibility himself of the country he’s supposedly administrating (Jericho, 2020). He should be using his omnipotence to make changes on a national scale. Our Prime Minister’s lack of empathy and exertion is beginning to be an impediment to his effluent-driven expressions (Jericho, 2020). Nevertheless, in the past year we’ve observed a myriad of individuals and groups embrace courage and espouse this cause: Greta Thunberg, Naomi Klein, Vandana Shiva, Sir David Attenborough, Barack Obama, Pope Francis, and Bill Nye to name a few ([Sankar-Gorton, 2015).](https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/author/eliza-sankar-gorton) As can be seen from their documentaries, public speeches, campaigns and books, each believe the predicament can be reconciled. These well-known revolutionaries have used their prerogative to bring light to the quandary. It is their constant persistence that gives us hope. But what can we do, as adolescents with limited agency? Let’s not only allow these insurgents to represent our attitudes, let’s rather embody their beliefs that there is a way out.  Young people are leading the movement to curb climate change outcomes. Throughout history, adolescents have been perceived as disengaged from society; only considering themselves (Goethem et al., 2012). In popular culture, teenagers are repeatedly depicted as being moody, grappling to discover their identity, experiencing social challenges, and undergoing growth and maturation. However, we know this generalised stereotype misrepresents us. Stated in the Journal of Adolescence, meaningfully contributing to society can improve “adolescents’ life-satisfaction, self-esteem, educational and occupational achievement, and sense of agency” (Goethem et al., 2012). So benefit yourself and our planet by signing petitions, boycotting products, and expressing opinions through social media. Generations before us have failed. Will you merely observe them impede on our futures? Or will you defy their misconceptions of our undefined status, embrace this transient period of our lives and transform our vulnerability into collective strength? We will no longer be identified as the silenced group of society. We will elucidate the urgency of this matter, as they have not.  Essentially, I believe we can collaborate on a unanimous decision that, as the most affected demographic, it is unequivocal that we are the forefront of this movement. It is ironic we, the group with the least capacity to influence others, is forced to amalgamate and respond to the inertia of our national leaders. But we will rise to the challenge. Let us join forces. Use your power as an altruistic human being. You no longer need to feel helpless and scared for your future. You can help by joining me and my peers at the Australian Youth Climate Coalition to stop Adani, ban fracking, educate others, repower our schools, and organise events to encourage individual action (AYCC, 2020). As instructed by Martin Luther King, Jr., we must unite.  Bibliography  AYCC. (2020). 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(2020). ‘Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’, United Nations. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>  [Yeung](https://edition.cnn.com/profiles/jessie-yeung), J. (2020). ‘Climate activists to single out Prime Minister Scott Morrison in marches across Australia as bushfires rage’, CNN, <https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/1/9/australia-fire-climate-protest.html> | Language features |
| Engages the reader  Introduction that introduces the purpose and audience of the persuasive speech  Establishes and maintains the role of the speaker and relationship with an identified public audience  Multiple cohesive and synthesised paragraphs that have been sequenced logically to motivate the audience  Linking paragraphs  Integrated quotations from peer-reviewed sources to support arguments  Employs cohesive devices, such as connectives, to emphasise ideas and connect parts of a persuasive text  Employs patterns and conventions of the genre.  Conclusion to summarise arguments and leave an impression on the reader’s mind  Connection to introduction | Persuasive devices include:   * Pathos to hook the audience * tricolon * rhetorical questions * high modality * logos * inclusive language   Perspectives and representations of times and places  Utilises discerning language choices  Attitudes, values and beliefs of members of society  Perspectives and representations of concepts: power  Perspectives and representations of identities and times.  Attacks on opposing views  Utilises varying sentence structures for effect  Call to action |