Good morning/afternoon Mr Gibbon and class.

Today I will be trying to persuade you to fight against global warming. As you listen to me over the next two to three minutes I want you to imagine the devastation caused by glaciers melting, sea levels rising, cloud forests drying and wildlife that is scrambling to keep pace. Over the past century humans have contributed to the warming of the planet by releasing heat trapping gases as we power our modern lives. These are called greenhouse gases and their levels are higher now than in the last 650,000 years.

This is what we call global warming. For you to grasp how bad this is I want to outline some of the changes that are already happening to our planet. The Earth's climate is changing at an alarming rate. As the Earth spins each day, the new heat caused by the greenhouse gases, swirls with it, picking up moisture over the oceans, rising here, settling there, causing the natural rhythms to change.We need to comprehend what this means to us. A National Geographic article on global warming asks us, what will we do to slow this warming? How will we cope with the changes we've already set into motion? While we struggle to figure it all out, the face of the Earth as we know it—coasts, forests, farms and snow-capped mountains—hangs in the balance.

Some of you may be sceptical about the reality of global warming. It is true that climate fluctuates consistently throughout time, in fact these changes are responsible for the ice ages. So, you may wonder why we are concerned about the current climate changes. I can tell you that the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have increased by more than a third since the industrial revolution. These changes have occurred in decades where previously it took several thousands of years. We must act and do something to manage this problem before it is too late.

For our earth to survive, optimum conditions must remain in place. The rapid rise in greenhouse gases is a problem because it is changing the climate faster than some living things can adapt. If we don’t implement change we may also fail to adapt to the new and changing conditions ourselves. Already our ice sheets are melting and scientists are measuring significant rises in the sea level. We are experiencing more intense storms, longer rain and drought periods. This means our crops are suffering, animals are challenged to survive in diminishing ecosystems and we are losing a very important source of water with the melting of the ice caps.

What I have just shared with you may feel like an impossibly overwhelming problem but we can invest in our future by making small changes in our daily life. The following are ten different ways you can make a difference. Small acts can have gigantic consequences.

**Number 1:** Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – make this a life motto and stop and think every time you need something new...there may just be a recycled alternative or perhaps you can reuse something instead. Don’t throw something out, see if you can fix it.

**Number 2:** Use less heat and airconditioning.

**Number 3:** Change a light bulb.

**Number 4:** Don’t always take the car, try walking or cycling.

**Number 5:** Shop for energy efficient products.

**Number 6:** Use less hot water.

**Number 7:** Turn off power, don’t leave lights or appliances on unnecessarily.

**Number 8:** Plant a tree.

**Number 9:** Use alternative power sources like solar power.

**Number 10:** Above all, take action. Be the change we need. Encourage others to think about their future, in fact, just think.