**Background**

Climate change is a relevant topic that is constantly being addressed by scientists and many concerned individuals. Throughout time, the earth has experienced many different phases in terms of weather. These phases can be caused through natural forces from the sun or volcanic eruptions. Climate is the weather patterns of an area measured over years. Climate change refers to the change of these weather patterns, whether these conditions change in temperature or humidity. However, based on current records, climate has been changing at an accelerating rate that cannot be blamed solely on nature. Humans are viewed upon to be the leading cause of climate change today due to the amount of greenhouse gas we are releasing.

Another important aspect to consider in understanding climate change, is that climate change is a long-term trend. Scientists are constantly analyzing these current climate conditions through satellites, ocean buoys and other advanced technologies. The scientists compare this data to past climate records that have been acquired through analyzing natural sources, such as tree rings, corals, and water sediments.

A topic that is closely associated to climate change is global warming. While many would assume they discuss the same topic, global warming is one small aspect of climate change. NASA scientists claim that global warming is focused on average global surface. Global warming refers strictly to the surface temperature, while climate change focuses on not only global warming but all other effects the Earth is facing. There are other effects of climate change than can be as severe as global warming. Rising sea levels, polluted air, extreme weather are all effects the earth faces from climate change. These changes in the climate can lead to environments changing, leading animals to adapt and change their habitats.

As scientist are studying these changing, climate change continues to be a polarizing topic. Some people feel as if climate change shouldn’t be treated as a threat to society. They believe that climate scientists can make a difference, trusting that their research will address the impact of climate change. However, others believe that climate change is a major threat to the environment and should be addressed with the upmost urgency. They feel a great level of threat from climate change, compared to individuals who see little to no threat. An article from Pew research center believes that these different mindsets can lead to bias, with credibility being tied into political views and personal agendas. Despite these different views, climate change remains to be a relevant topic in the public eye.

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**Analysis**

As the discussion of climate change continues to gain popularity, many individuals fear the threats of climate change and feel a strong call to action. These strong feelings towards a diverse topic can lead to questions of credibility and create potential bias. Despite these problems, the author can engage the audience to face the consequences behind climate change, developing strong feelings towards one side of the argument.

In an environmental article titled “Get scared’: World’s scientists say disastrous climate change is here” from Zack Colman and Karl Mathiesen, the duo elaborates on how climate change has already caused natural disasters and will continue to lead to more. The authors continue to address climate change with the upmost urgency, using specific natural disasters as examples of human’s interference with the natural ecosystem. They believe that the climate crisis is an upcoming threat with disastrous consequences, despite the widespread dismissal from politicians. The authors start the article with upmost urgency, stating that “the planet’s top scientists” have linked human’s gas emissions to disastrous events. The article wastes no time to address their idea of relevant issues, while not providing a credible source for the first claim. Through using an urgent tone and nouns with negative connotations, such as disaster, it invites the audience to fear the future of climate change.

The article also pushes the idea of fear not only through written elements, but visual as well. Throughout the article there are multiple photos of wildfires, glaciers melting, natural disasters in third world countries, and even a video calling out to politicians. The photos are large high-resolution images taking up a large amount of screen space. By implanting these large grim images throughout the article, the authors can pick the visual elements the reader will refer to, instead of visualizing their own. In this case, the images can be seen as distressing to some creating an uncomfortable mood in the article. And with a title “Get Scared” the authors clearly want the readers to associate climate change with disastrous events and deadly consequences of human intervention. By enforcing the claims with strong visual elements, credibility becomes lost and bias sneaks in as the authors tris to create fear within the audience.

Without using strong visual elements, the article “Are We Really Running Out of Time to Stop Climate Change?” written by Rafi Letzter, acknowledges climate change head on by discussing the consequences humans are currently facing. The author firmly believes that climate change is already taking hold, with many of its effects becoming irreversible as time goes on. The problems from climate change are not apocalyptic but can increasingly become harder to maintain. Letzter goes on to address how migrating and adaptation can be essential ways humans can combat the war on global climate change. The author acknowledges that climate change is already here and that there are many effects we can’t reverse. By approaching climate change through a blunt claim, it allows readers to question their thoughts on the aspect of stopping climate change. Letzter continues to address climate change in a lighter tone, but still emphasizes the importance of making a difference. The author creates this importance by showing the readers certain effects of climate change such as food production and diseases. These topics can create a sense of fear within the reader, due to the consequences of those effects.

In contrast to these call-to-action articles, Michael Shellenberger, a writer for Forbes, addresses the stress and fear many people face when discussing climate change in the article “Why Apocalyptic Claims About Climate Change Are Wrong”. Shellenberger believes that climate change should not be addressed with apocalyptic lingo, as they are unwarranted claims lacking credible sources. Shellenberger provides examples of apocalyptic claims made from relevant figures today. By using relevant figures, the audience can form a connection with these topics through previous knowledge. He continues to tell the audience that these claims are not credible and have no solid proof that climate change could lead to an “extinction of the human species”. By doing so the article can approach a lighter tone, compared to the fearful mood conveyed in “Get Scared”, easing the reader to approach climate change in a different aspect. The author also finds other ways to ease the tension of worrisome apocalyptic claims, and the fear of future natural disasters. Shellenberger address how economic development has lowered the death toll from natural disastrous. Providing a credible source, this allows the readers to approach natural disasters in a more manageable mindset.

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| **Project Portion** | **Ideal Criteria** | **Overall Feedback** |
| Introduction | * Engaging * Shows importance of question * Indicates major parts and content |  |
| Background | * Uses credible, neutral sources * Effectively and sufficiently explains essential information * Written objectively in own words * Well organized and focused paragraphs with transitions * Minimal error | Two of your sources don’t seem neutral (“The Politics of…” and “Examining the Scientific Consensus…”) but you appear to have extracted objective information from them.  The places I’ve highlighted in yellow are too close to the wording of the source. Put those parts in your own words. |
| Analysis | * Smooth transition from background * Summarizes accurately and in own words two opposing answers and one objective answer to the question * Recognizes bias * Reasonable observations about how all sources make their arguments impactful * Well-organized and focused paragraphs with transitions * Minimal error | Overall, nicely analyzed.  Just a couple of places to tweak. |
| Response | * Smooth transition from analysis * Incorporates strong points from sources * Draws a reasonable and well-supported conclusion, answering the question * Provides satisfying conclusion to the project * Good transitions between focused paragraphs * Minimal error |  |