Part 1/ Background

Climate change is a topic widely discussed in our society, yet the term and understanding of climate change isn’t as widely understood. As Melissa Denchak and Jeff Turrentine of NRDC states, “It’s the longer-term trend that differentiates climate change from natural weather variability…Record floods. Raging storms. Deadly heat.” Climate change manifests itself and continues to break records in all categories of weather consistently. Climate change has happened forever, yet many would argue that it is just now finding the light of society the past decade. The human activity since the mid-20th century has rapidly increased the rate of change to our climate. The reason these ideas are finally being broadcast and understood by the public is because of the extreme global changes that have been seen. As the topic of climate change hit mass media there have been many people standing up and trying to make a change while others believe it’s too late to make much of a change. While there’s truth to both sides, how much do we need to be concerned about climate change? To truly understand climate change you first need to understand what it is exactly changing. NASA explains the evidence for rapid climate change is compelling, the claims of change include, global temperature rise, warming ocean, shrinking ice sheets, glacial retreat, decreased snow cover, sea level rise, and extreme events. NASA states, “Direct observations made on, and above Earth’s surface show the planet’s climate is significantly changing. Human activities are the primary driver to those changes.” These claims show and confirm climate change as an issue and that we as humans are the driving factor, yet do we need to be concerned if there aren’t any viable changes to be made that are truly realistic to today’s society? It is worth noting that climate change and global warming are used interchangeably, the recent change of the global average temperature is just one aspect of climate change. Understanding climate change is the first step towards any plan to negate or ignore the issue. Climate change has occurred for thousands of years yet very recently ramped up and even more recently became a topic of discussion and debate in the mass media. Understanding what climate change does and effects will greatly prepare an individual to make an educated decision on what impact they will have. Yet the question still reigns, how much should we be concerned?

Works Cited

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