**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. Global warming is focused on average global surface temperatures based on the amount of emissions human’s release into the atmosphere. 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. 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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| **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 | There’s no mention of sources at all, so the draft can’t get full credit. It seems you used sources, but you need to list them in bibliographic format (and ideally refer to them in the text).  It’s especially good that you explain the difference between climate change and global warming. |
| Analysis | * Smooth transition from background * Summarizes accurately and in own words two opposing answers and one objective answer to the question * Recognizes and shows bias * Reasonable observations about how all sources make their arguments impactful * Well-organized and focused paragraphs with transitions * Minimal error |  |
| 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 |  |