


Instructions

Your professor is teaching a class on political science. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response you should:

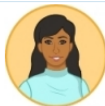
- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.




Dr. Gupta

As I mentioned in class, governments make public policies to describe their responses to various problems that affect a community. Part of this process involves setting and defending priorities about which issues deserve the most attention and resources. For example, governments need to decide whether they should spend more money on education or on environmental protections. If you were a policy maker, which issue would you argue is more important—education or environmental protections? Why?



Sara B.

We all live on planet Earth, and it is the only planet we have. Therefore, we must take care of it. Clearly, protecting the environment should be the government's priority over education. I think the REAL question is, which approach to protecting the environment—restricting pollution, regulating population, promoting clean energy, or something else—should be the government's priority.



Taehyun O.

I disagree with Sara that that the environment is more important than education. Education is actually the best way to protect the environment. Educated people can see how their decisions affect the world around them. Also, with better science and technology education, we can develop solutions to environmental problems. Therefore, I think the government should spend more money on education.

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9:58

XDF Normal Version:

Personally, I tend to lean towards Taehyun's position. I think that only when people have a certain level of education, can they understand the effects and consequences of their actions. A lot of the times, people just don't realize that their daily activities have huge impacts. Things like turning off the light when ever possible is not hard, some people just do not understand the significance of such small actions. While Sara do have a strong argument for environmental protection, I believe that she is forgetting that the government alone cannot achieve everything she said. It is only through the collective effort of the people can we achieve something as big as environmental protection, and the only way to make sure that everyone is on board is through education.

XDF OP Version:

I think for most governments, this is a “false choice”. When we talk about environmental protection and education, we often think of them as a given when, in fact, half of the countries in the world cannot even afford to choose. People from more developed nations tends to think like Sara, believing that protecting the environment is a “no-brainer”. Yet what they didn't realize is that harms to the environment is unavoidable in the development of any nation. Cities like London, Paris and New York all had periods of environmental issues. So, it is not that developing countries do not want to choose environmental protection, it is that they simply cannot afford to do so. Therefore, choosing education is the only viable path for these nations. Only through education, can they improve their economic structure, and gradually retire inefficient methods for economic development. Jus as Taehyun mentioned, with better education, we could have more ways to protect the planet. This is the mindset of developing countries. As they cannot stop developing and let their people starve, the only way forward is to loosen the grip on the environment, and hope that education can provide them with a better way to develop their nation in the future.

Sample Response:

I agree with Sara when she said that protecting the environment should be priority over education. Although I can see Taehyun's point that education can include educating people to protect the environment better, I think the process would be too slow for any meaningful change, which is immediately needed now. It could

take years for education to affect on the environment, and in that time, our planet could become not liveable or at least be filled with droughts, rising sea levels, and other natural disasters. There will be less overall suffering from focusing on environmental protections now so that education can be priority later.

Annotation:

The response effectively adds to the discussion. It addresses the prompt and supports a point of view that takes into consideration points in the previous posts. Complex sentence structure and fairly low-frequency vocabulary are present, and while there are also a few minor mistakes in grammar, spelling, and word choice (immediately needed now, could become not liveable), they do not greatly interfere with meaning.