# **CCST9035 Making Sense of Science-related Social Issues**

# **Initial essay instructions**

*There is no right or wrong answers.*

|  |
| --- |
| Below are the **format requirement**s:   * Font size **12** * **Single line spacing** * **Times New Roman font** * **Margin 1” x 1” x 1”**   Please cite the reference where others' work has been drawn upon.  The list of references is **NOT** included in the word count.  Assignments must be submitted to Turnitin (via Moodle) for plagiarism detection. You can log in to the course homepage via Moodle and click on the “What is Plagiarism?” button to get more information about plagiarism. Please submit a**soft copy** of your assignment to Moodle **by Sep 21 (Wed) 14:30.**  Please submit all assignments with the document file saved as a **Word file** with your university number, name, and tutorial group number, such as “**3035000000\_ChanTaiMan\_Mon\_2**”  Referencing style: APA |

**Part I: Evaluation of socioscientific news**

As an educated layperson (NOT a scientist!!), read the following three articles and answer the question below:

Article 1: Did the climate crisis enable the coronavirus pandemic? *EcoWatch.*

<https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change-coronavirus-2650417493.html>

Article 2: Warmer temperatures reduce COVID-19 threat, Homeland Security reports. *Climate Realism.*

<https://climaterealism.com/2020/05/warmer-temperatures-reduce-covid-19-threat-homeland-security-reports/>

Article 3: Is COVID-19 a symptom of climate change? *Jerusalem Post.*<https://www.jpost.com/health-science/is-covid-19-a-symptom-of-climate-change-675321>

Based on these three articles, is there a connection between climate change and the outbreak of COVID-19, in your opinion? If so, what is the connection? If not, why not? Please explain and justify your conclusion by referring to the articles that you read. Write clearly and elaborate the information, preferably in your own words. (~two A4 pages)

**Part II: Are the articles useful?**

Please rate how useful is each article for finding out if there is a connection between climate change and the outbreak of COVID-19 on a scale of 1 (not useful at all) to 10 (very useful).Then please explain why you gave the article this rating and how you reached this judgment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article 1: Did the climate crisis enable the coronavirus pandemic? *EcoWatch.*  <https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change-coronavirus-2650417493.html> | |
| How useful is the article for answering the question? | **1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10** |
| Please explain your rating in detail (e.g., why don’t you rate the article higher or lower than you did?). | **Comparing to other article, it does give some objective elaboration on the connection between climate change and bat virus with the support from the creditable scientific report. Meanwhile, Covid-19 seems to be originated from bat virus, as stated in the article. It somehow provide an idea which there is a connection between Covid-19 and Climate Change. However, other article cannot provide an argument why there is or there is no connection between the outbreak of Covid-19 and climate change. Thus, this article is rated higher.** |
| How did you reach this judgment? | **This article can directly show there is a connection between climate change and outbreak of covid-19. Thus, I rate it with higher score (higher than 5). By this article, I do find out climate change can cause the growth in number of different type of virus, which may respond to the connection between covid-19 and climate change. However, it cannot provide an objective elaboration / cite any creditable scientific report to show that covid-19 is originated from bat virus. There is no more connection between the climate change and covid-19 when there is no proved relations between covid-19 and bat virus. In other words, the article cannot develop the argument with concrete elaboration. Thus, I won’t rate this article higher than 7.** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article 2: Warmer temperatures reduce COVID-19 threat, Homeland Security reports. *Climate Realism.* <https://climaterealism.com/2020/05/warmer-temperatures-reduce-covid-19-threat-homeland-security-reports/> | |
| How useful is the article for answering the question? | **1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10** |
| Please explain your rating in detail (e.g., why don’t you rate the article higher or lower than you did?). | **I rate this article lower than article 1. It is because this article can only shows that climate change (global warming) lower the activity of virus and cannot relate to the outbreak of covid-19, while article 1 can shows that climate change would be one of the reason of outbreak of covid-19. I rate this article higher than article 3. It is because this article can mainly focus on the how climate change affect the activity of virus, in other world, higher the temperature and lower virus activity may show that climate change is not one of the factor of outbreak of covid-19, while article 3 is mainly focus on the impact of pandemic on the climate change. Thus, I believe article 3 is less relevant than article 2.** |
| How did you reach this judgment? | **It can integrate the objective, creditable scientific report in the article to show that the climate change does lower the activity of covid-19. However, as we all know, the outbreak of covid-19 starts in winter,** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article 3: Is COVID-19 a symptom of climate change? *Jerusalem Post.*<https://www.jpost.com/health-science/is-covid-19-a-symptom-of-climate-change-675321> | |
| How useful is the article for answering the question? | **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** |
| Please explain your rating in detail (e.g., why don’t you rate the article higher or lower than you did?). |  |
| How did you reach this judgment? |  |

**Part III: Which criteria are important?**

Please identify and describe which criteria are important to your evaluation of socioscientific news, such as the articles in part I or any other articles about socioscientific issues that you come across as you use the Internet. Rate the criteria according to their degree of importance in your opinion on a scale of 1 to 4 (1-somewhat important, 2-important, 3-very important, 4-extremely important) and explain why they are important in your opinion. Put down your thoughts in the following table. Feel free to add more rows as necessary.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of evaluation criterion | What does this criterion mean? | Degree of importance  (1 to 4) | Why is this criterion important to your evaluation? |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |