**2A Essay**

Throughout the articles read I was able to find a common connection about an individual’s behavior compared to a community. In the first article by Stephanie Simon it is discussed how with little effort, such as turning down the thermostat during winter, could help to reduce the amount of carbon used per year, but it would not really make a difference unless we used “big-ticket technological innovations” to successfully become a low-carbon energy economy. Like the first article, the second article addresses how “going green” is not really helpful. The reasoning for this is whether people think it is great or not, not all are going to action in wanting to improve the planet. In the article by Carolyn Raffensperger, it talks about how individuals can make a difference on their own due to their moral beliefs, however, the planet is not going to get any better unless people take action collectively as a whole. The article by Paul C. Stern goes into depth about how motivation to help the environment is psychologically driven and the many factors as to how and why people take their actions to do so. From a sociological point of view many people such as Michael Mayerfeld Bell think an individual’s actions to help the world cannot help but be influenced by factors around them. He also thinks, as a community, we should all be made known of our consequences as a society to then get everyone to make better decisions for the environment.

The theme throughout the articles about an individual’s behavior compared to a community’s behavior is very prevalent. There cannot be a whole group on board if everyone has varying ideas on what helping the environment is because nothing productive is going to occur if that is the case. I find it hard to get any group project done if no one is on the same page. The article, *The A-B Split & Virtual Environmentalism*, it describes how, “People tend to avoid conscious recognition of an ideological mismatch if they can. But often they can’t, and they try to adjust their lives and their thinking accordingly—which is also hard.” This also supports the idea that working to assist the environment as a community is better because individuals are not really aware of what actions they are taking if it is bad or not. If they are, it is going to be difficult to keep them on track. As a person, I mainly feel obligated to join in on something if almost everyone else is doing it. This way I know something is going to be done if there is more than one person working on the situation these people want to achieve the same outcome as you do. However, there are benefits to understanding why people do the things they do under the psychological perspective. If something were to happen to the environment we would be able to understand why each individual reacts the way they do. I believe this is necessary because there is no way we can control how everyone is going to respond to crucial information. If a credible source were to tell me that using my car too much is causing global warming, I might take it into consideration in my mind. In reality I would not take action because it does not seem important to me if other people are already doing it even though I know driving my car a lot is causing pollution. Going back to community, if everyone else stopped driving and started taking other actions to reduce pollution I most likely as an individual will because everyone around me is doing it.

After furtherly analyzing and reading these articles, I have come to a conclusion that working as a community to fix the environment’s health is better than simply an individual’s actions. Mainly due to personal experience and because no one wants to feel like an outsider when the other fish in the sea are still doing something different. Plus, one individual’s actions is not going to make up for a whole community even if one person is doing the best they can. Once everyone is aware and on the same page about what needs to be done, then action should be taken. Until then, there is nothing I or any other individual people can do to aid our surrounding environment.