

Writing a two-sided argument essay

Topic: Climate Change [example]

Argument: *Is Climate Change a result of human activities?*

Type: Academic [7 sources]

Level: *****[B2/C1]

Lesson Aim

To develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument essay.

3 types of lesson (writing x2 / reading x1).

1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss question: *Is Climate Change a result of human activities?*
- Write down the arguments in favour and in opposition.
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page).

Free Writing #1:

1. Distribute **outline #1** (blank).
2. Students complete outline using ideas discussed previously.
3. Students write the essay using the completed outline.
4. Students compare their essay with the model essay.
5. Extra: Reading Exercise.

Guided Writing #2:

1. Distribute **outline#2** (completed with points).
2. Students write the essay using outline.
3. Students compare their essay with the model essay.

Marking student's work:

Use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction

2. Reading

1. Distribute text and **outline #3** (blank).
2. Students read the essay and complete outline with key points and support.
3. Students check answers with **outline #4**.

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Is Climate Change a result of human activities?

C. Wilson (2017)

Key vocabulary

1. Persuasive
2. Climate Change
3. [REDACTED]
4. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) / [REDACTED] / Methane (CH₄)
5. Sceptics
6. Phenomenon
7. [REDACTED]
8. Prominent
9. Measuring temperature changes: [REDACTED] / corals
10. [REDACTED]
11. Unprecedented
12. 460ppm
13. [REDACTED]
14. Unique
15. Northern hemisphere
16. Millennium
17. [REDACTED]
18. Exaggeration
19. Sensitivity
20. [REDACTED]
21. Controversial
22. A correlation
23. [REDACTED]
24. Aviation industry

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Is Climate Change a result of human activities?

C. Wilson (2017)

Temperatures on earth have increased [redacted] the early 20th century. Over this time period, atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and [redacted] notably increased. Many [redacted] direct result of human activities, while sceptics claim that these gas and temperature increases are a [redacted]. This essay will investigate both sides of [redacted] will conclude that the causes of climate change [redacted] action is needed to reduce emissions [redacted].

There is an overwhelming consensus that human activity is responsible for climate change. The first main argument is that there [redacted] within the academic community and research that supports the notion that climate change is human induced. One [redacted] is the 2013 Cook Review [redacted] studies on climate change which found [redacted] (0.7%) explicitly rejected the position that humans are responsible for global warming (Cook et al, 2012). The second argument, again closely [redacted], is that the [redacted] faster than the natural climate change. Mann et al (2008) found that through comparing data from tree rings, [redacted] over the past [redacted] temperature records, the rise over the preceding decade had occurred at a rate faster than any warming period over [redacted], the Arctic Sea [redacted] unprecedented rate of 13.9% per decade with predictions that it will have melted by 2020 (Stroeve et al, 2007). The final argument [redacted] which cause [redacted] by humans. Recent ice-core research has revealed that gases CO₂, CH₄ and NO₂ started to increase [redacted] of the industrial revolution and since then atmospheric levels have increased from 220ppm to [redacted]). Overall, there seems to be [redacted] that climate change has been caused by human activities.

There are a number of views that try to [redacted] that climate change is human made. The first of these is against the published research. Some scientists disagree [redacted] (discussed in previous paragraph) due to [redacted] the studies gave no position in support or against (Tol, 2016). In fact, a Berkley University survey found [redacted] believe [redacted] by an equal combination of humans and the environment. A second point is that the climate [redacted] and cooled [redacted] are within natural temperature fluctuations. Soon and Baliunas (2003) claim that "many records [redacted] was probably not the warmest nor a uniquely extreme climatic period of the last millennium." Furthermore, a later study (ibid) [redacted] - similar [redacted] in the twentieth century before 1990 occurred around AD 1000 to 1100" in the Northern Hemisphere. The [redacted] research into climate change [redacted] models, which are inadequate and inaccurate. According to Lewis and Curry (2014), a comparison between [redacted] than [redacted] concluded that "the models are exaggerating climate sensitivity" and overestimate how fast the earth will warm [redacted]. In sum, there [redacted] and conclusions drawn.

In conclusion, the debate of [REDACTED] result of [REDACTED] controversial. There is significant scientific evidence that many scientists agree, and changes in [REDACTED] closely to [REDACTED]. On the other side, this scientific evidence is questioned and the Earth has been through [REDACTED] in the past. However, [REDACTED] increase in global warming gases and a rise in temperatures is overwhelmingly credible and [REDACTED] is caused from [REDACTED] scientific evidence, it seems obvious that the rise of industries, the aviation industry and urbanisation [REDACTED] more than in the past. Overall, [REDACTED] and societies need to take international action now.

[680 words]

Reference list

Cook, J., Nuccitelli, D., Green, S., Richardson, M., Winkler, B., Painting, R., Way, R., Jacobs, P. and Skuce, A. (2013). Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature. *Environ. Res. Lett.*, 8(2), p.024024.

Lewis, N. and Curry, J. (2014). The implications for climate sensitivity of AR5 forcing and heat uptake estimates. *Climate Dynamics*, 45(3-4), pp.1009-1023.

Mann, M., Zhang, Z., Hughes, M., Bradley, R., Miller, S., Rutherford, S. and Ni, F. (2008). Proxy-based reconstructions of hemispheric and global surface temperature variations over the past two millennia. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 105(36), pp.13252-13257.

NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory (2013), *Trends in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide*. [Online] Available at: <http://ersl.noaa.gov> [Accessed 22 Jul. 2016].

Soon, W. and Baliunas, S. (2003). Global warming. *Physical Geography*, 27(3), pp.448-455.

Stroeve, J., Holland, M., Meier, W., Scambos, T. and Serreze, M. (2007). Arctic sea ice decline: Faster than forecast. *Geophysics Research* 34(9).

Tol, R. (2016). Comment on 'Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature'. *Environmental Research*. 11(4), p.46.

Outline #1

Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: Is Climate Change a result of human activities?

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline & Thesis	

Yes - write your ideas and support	
1.Point / idea: Support:	
2.Point: Support:	
3.Point: Support:	

No - write your ideas and support	
1.Point / idea: Support:	
2.Point: Support:	
3. Point: Support:	

Conclusion	
Summary	
Thesis	
Recommendation	

Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: Is Climate Change a result of human activities?

Introduction	
General	Temperatures increase = █ F since 20th century.
Specific	Greenhouse gases (CO ₂) & (CH ₄) increased= climate change. Scientists = █ = natural process.
Outline & Thesis	This essay will investigate both sides of the argument. Unnatural = immediate international action needed.

YES

1. Over-whelming academic consensus.

- Climate change = human-made.
- 2013 Cook review 11,944 studies = only 78 studies (0.7%) rejected.

ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...

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Outline #3

Read the essay on: *Is Climate Change a result of human activities?* Fill in the outline (*basic notes only*)

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline & Thesis	

Yes – find the main points and support	
1. _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
2. _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
3. _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

No – find the main points and support	
1. _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
2. _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
3. _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

Conclusion	
Summary	
Thesis	
Recommendation	

Outline #4: ANSWERS

Introduction	
General	Temperatures on Earth have increased [redacted] °F since the early 20th century.
Specific	Atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO ₂) and [redacted] have increased = Climate Change. Many scientists = human activities. Skeptics = [redacted].
Outline & Thesis	This essay will investigate both sides of the argument. Causes of CC are [redacted] international action needed.

YES**1. Over-whelming academic consensus**

- Climate change is human induced.
- The 2013 Cook review of 11,944 peer-reviewed studies on climate change found that only 78 studies (0.7%) explicitly rejected.

ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...

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