

Title: WARMING OUR WORLD AND CHILLING OUR FUTURE
Topic: Global warming
Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about the problem of global warming.
Thesis Statement: Today I want to share what I've learned about global warming and its causes.

INTRODUCTION

Attention material: When Mark Twain was in London in 1897, a rumor reached the editor of the *New York Journal*, who immediately wired his London correspondent: "HEAR MARK TWAIN DIED, SEND 1000 WORDS." "REPORT OF MY DEATH GREATLY EXAGGERATED."
Global warming is alive and well and thriving in Antarctica. In winter 1995, an iceberg the size of Rhode Island broke off. In October 1998, an iceberg the size of Delaware broke off.

Credibility material: Now, I'm what you might call a "country mouse." I love the outdoors. You can be a "city mouse," and like clean air, good water, and not having to worry about sun. So all of us have a lot at stake here.

Thesis statement: Today I want to share what I've learned about global warming and its causes.

Preview: We need to consider the loss of woodlands, industrial emissions, and increases in energy consumption.

Transition: "Let's begin by understanding more about global warming."

BODY

- I. Global warming is a gradual warming of the earth from human activities (Union).
 - A. It is characterized by a high concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
 1. Each year five tons of CO₂ are pumped into the atmosphere.
 2. The carbon dioxide traps heat.
 3. 1998 set temperature records.
 - B. Carbon pollutants also eat a hole in the ozone layer (NOAA).
 1. In 1998 this hole set a size record.
 2. This allows more ultraviolet radiation to reach Earth.
 - C. If this problem is not corrected, we may see disastrous results (National Issues Forums).
 1. There could be dramatic climate changes.
 - a. There could be drought in the middle of continents.
 - b. There could be many severe storms.
 - c. There could be rising sea levels that would destroy coastal areas.
 2. There could be serious health problems.
 - a. There could be an increase in skin cancer.
 - b. There could be an increase in cataracts.
 - c. There could be damaged immune systems.

Transition: "Now that you understand what global warming is and why it is important, let's examine its major causes."

- II. The loss of woodland adds to global warming (Union).
 - A. One football-field-sized area of forest is lost every second.
 - B. Some loss occurs through cutting trees.
 - C. Burning adds more carbon dioxide from smoke.

Transition: "An even greater cause of global warming, . . ."

- III. Industrial emissions accelerate global warming (Union).
 - A. These account for more than 20 percent of our air pollution.
 - B. Americans are the worst offenders.
 - 1. We use 26 percent of the world's oil.
 - 2. We release 26 percent of nitrogen oxides.
 - 3. We release 22 percent of carbon dioxide.
 - C. There is light on the horizon.
 - 1. The rate of emission is slowing (Dept. of Energy).
 - 2. Companies are uniting to arrest climate change ("New Initiative")

Transition: "Finally, we come to the biggest cause of global warming—ourselves."

- IV. Personal energy consumption magnifies global warming (Union).
 - A. Energy consumption is the single largest cause of global warming.
 - 1. Fossil fuel use accounts for 90 percent of America's energy consumption.
 - 2. Transportation-related energy accounts for half of all air pollution.
 - B. America is on an energy binge (Myerson).
 - 1. We are using more fuel in our homes.
 - a. New homes are much larger.
 - b. People have more energy-hungry equipment.
 - 2. We are using more fuel for transportation.
 - a. Commutes are longer.
 - b. Vehicle horsepower is increasing.
 - c. People are buying gas guzzlers.

CONCLUSION

Summary statement: In conclusion, if you want to know why we have global warming, listen for the falling trees, watch the industrial smokestacks darkening the sky, and smell the exhaust fumes we are pumping into the air.

Concluding statement: Gore story on how global warming can sneak up on us. Addressing the National Academy of Sciences, the vice president said, "If dropped into a pot of boiling water, a frog will quickly jump out. But if the same frog is put into a pot and the water is slowly heated, the frog will stay put until boiled alive. So it is with pollution. . . . If we do not wake up the the slow heating of our environment, we may jump too late." The more we know about global warming, the more likely we are jump and the less likely we are to be cooked.

WORKS CITED

- Energy Information Administration, "U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Growth Slows," *United States Department of Energy*, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press111.html>. Posted November 3, 1998. Downloaded November 18, 1998.
- Lemonick, Michael D. "One Big, Bad Iceberg," *Time*, 20 Mar. 1995: 65.
- Myerson, Allen R. "U.S. Splurging on Energy After Falling Off Its Diet," *New York Times Online*, <http://www.nytimes.com/library/financial/>. Posted October 22, 1998. Downloaded November 20, 1998.
- National Issues Forums Institute, *The Environment at Risk: Responding to Growing Dangers*. Dayton: Kettering Foundation, 1989.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "Antarctic Ozone Hole Sets New Record," <http://www.noaa.gov/public-affairs/pr98/oct98/noaa98-064.html>. Posted October 6, 1998. Downloaded November 17, 1998.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "New Iceberg Breaks Off Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica," <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/stories/sir23.html>. Posted October 15, 1998. Downloaded November 17, 1998.
- "A New Initiative," *Pew Center on Global Climate Change*, <http://www.pewclimate.org/init.html>. Undated posting. Downloaded September 30, 1998.
- "Thirteen Companies Form Climate Coalition," *MSNBC*, <http://www.msnbc.com/news/164240.asp>. Posted May 8, 1998. Downloaded September 30, 1998.
- Union of Concerned Scientists, "The Causes of Global Warming," <http://www.ucsusa.org/warming/gw.causes.html>. Undated posting. Downloaded November 18, 1998.