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### Climate Change Awareness

Narrowing down topics to research wasn't easy, but, the issue that stood out most to me was climate change. In Michael Pollan's reading he addresses the issue of climate change and draws awareness to it. The title itself, "Why Bother" is motive enough to write about the issue because it raises the question, why bother? More importantly we need to accept our wrong doings. A reason for this being is because he wants to inform the reader the importance of reducing their carbon footprint. Also, he tells us ways as to how we can make a difference by changing just a few things in our lives that really isn't much. We are all contributors to the increase in climate change so we all as people can make slight changes to our lives to help save the planet.

It's interesting to name an article "Why Bother" because it draws the attention of the reader. Pollan makes a good effort in his reading by stating, "What would be the point when I know full well that halfway around the world there lives my evil twin, some carbon-footprint doppel-ganger in Shanghai or Chongqing who has just bought his first car, is eager to swallow every bit of meat I forswear, and who's positively itching to replace every last pound of carbon dioxide I'm struggling no longer to emit." (765). This is probably where the reader tries to justify if someone else isn't making the same effort then, why bother? They don't feel the need to make any changes if someone else isn't stepping up to the plate. Or it could be role reversal where they know someone is helping to reduce climate change so they don't have to and this could make

them the doppel-ganger. But in the end this could just lead to a repetitive cycle where each individual can make the claim that their effort alone isn't enough to make a change. Not only that but as much as we change our lifestyles it still wouldn't be enough. Michael makes the statement that it would take "laws and money," (765).

"Once our personal connection to what is wrong becomes clear, then we have to choose," (766). Overlooking this statement would be a huge mistake because after reading this you can clearly see that we have to make a choice. You as an individual can choose to accept your wrongs and live your life of luxuries, or, you can stop and change how you live.

What can we do to reduce our carbon footprint? If we want to make an impact we can start by cutting our consumption of meat by a slight bit or even completely which would reduce our carbon footprint by at most a quarter. Also, you can go one day every week without economic activity such as no electronics, no shopping, and no driving. But the most powerful thing a person can do is plant a garden. (677). Some of these changes can be made more easily than others like cutting out meat or planting a garden but not using electronics would become difficult. We rely so much on electronics that it's terrible. Every day I go online to check assignments and download readings that are provided. A majority of my assignments are due online as well. I'm not attached to electronics because I can easily find other alternatives to keep myself occupied. If there was one thing I can do it would be to grow a garden. It is so simple. You can grow one with your family, friends, or even your community. It helps develop a connection between people that it would create more interactions in person. Everyone is so use to texting that they don't see their friends. For this reason it would be a great idea to grow a garden.

After the conclusion of this reading it was easy for me to make the decision as to what I wish to research this quarter. Since the time I was in high school I would always hear about the

increase in global warming. I never knew what it meant when I was younger. It wasn't until I asked what it was that I became aware. Last spring I took a sociology class here at Eastern. I took Social Problems with Dr. Lindekugel. Some of the things I learned have stuck with me since. I thought it was so intriguing that I want to look more into the issue itself.

I learned quite a bit in that course and it was eye opening. We spent a whole section on climate change. I learned that in Europe countries have taxes that help to lower climate change. a couple that I remember was that one country charges about up to 80% tax when purchasing a car and they have a inflation tax that you have to pay if you want to get into some of the cities. Would something like this urge people in America to changes their way? I believe so. Also, I think it was Denmark that gets a majority of their energy from wind energy which was about 90 percent of the whole country's energy source. Another interesting fact was that each house hold here in the U.S. produces over 3,000 tons of carbon dioxide every year. Each person also produces four and a half pounds of garbage a day on average.

Environmental issues were also in discussion such as the polar ice caps and the amazon rain forest. The melting of polar ice caps creates a problem because there is CO<sub>2</sub> that is already stored in them which means if they melt the carbon dioxide gets released. I also became aware the rain forest could come to an end. The trees their take in the CO<sub>2</sub> which is released as mist and the over absorption of carbon dioxide could lead to its extinction. We are taking advantage of the resources given to us and we need to rethink our way of living because if we don't the planet could eventually be no more.

As we all have made contributions to the increase of climate change I believe it's time to make the decision of cutting back on some resources. The discussion is still heavy around the issue of global warming. I've heard in a lot of places such as schools, news articles, conferences,

and social media. It is said that down the road it could be more harmful and dangerous which gives people the reason to not do anything now. But if we wait until it's too late, is there anything even left saving? So it is time to make a decision. What can we do to decrease our carbon footprint? Also, who or what contributes most to climate change? Can we cause a chain reaction that will get people on board to reduce global warming?