

Introduction

- Humankind's advancement governed by an innate greed to prosper and accumulate wealth.
 - Desire for riches not harmful: resulting actions can be vastly detrimental to Earth.
 - Overhunting and taste for exotic creatures led to dodo bird's extinction in 1681, over three centuries ago.
 - Today, elephants and rhinoceros pushed to near-extinction by ivory-hungry poachers and equivalently enthusiastic buyers.
- **Humans exploit resources:** their latest target of value is fossil fuels.
 - The world drills, mines, combusts fossil fuels to meet growing demand, propelled by increased use
- Fossil fuel expansion tied to **fossil fuel industry**, a major proponent of the world's economy – over a trillion dollars in revenue from just three of the hundreds of companies involved
 - **Vast environmental impact overlooked** for decades and corporations continued making hundreds of billions and economy prospered
- Start taking actions that value Earth and respect what is left
- Revenue and profits meaningless if planet deemed unlivable from complications of global warming
 - Rising sea-levels
 - Increasing air pollution in major cities
 - Unpredictable freak weather happenings of tremendous destruction
- Bill McKibben in "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math," says humans only have until 2050 to take action to combat climate change, before effects become irreversible.
 - People must stow away greed and acknowledge that climate change is real and caused by human actions.
- Corporations dominating fossil fuel industry never going to publicly admit accountability
- Task for citizens of America, and rest of world, to **campaign for action** at governmental level, as suggested by Siri Gloppen and Asuncion Lera St. Clair in "Climate Change Lawfare," and make small changes in respective lives to make difference on international scale

Research Question

What are the impacts of global warming, and why should they be addressed before effects become irreversible?



Thesis Statement

Climate change is manmade, and because of that fact, the issue must be taken seriously so that immediate action can combat its effects.

Conceptual Framework

- Origins of Global Warming
 - **European exploration** in the 15th and 16th centuries caused much death and disease, resulting in "global cooling"
 - **Industrial Revolution** in 19th century entirely reversed effect of cooling, with global temperatures rising over one-degree Celsius since then
 - By the **late 1980s**, some scientists had realized that global warming was a serious threat
 - By **early 2000s** it became clear that things were not normal, with hundreds of billions of dollars lost in freak weather events, and serious trouble from droughts and sea levels
- Global Warming in the 21st Century
 - Dependency on fossil fuels has resulted in the current situation
 - Despite existing detriments, planet can be pushed further, up to a maximum rise of temperature of 2.0 degrees Celsius, a number agreed upon at the Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2009
 - Climate change was not taken seriously 30 years ago in 1980, but **now is the time** for that mistake to be corrected, before irreversible damage is done
- Change is very Achievable
 - **Hope** is the key to taking action
- Using the Law
 - Governments have to enact stricter regulations to stem the climate change issue, and the key to that is **public support**
- For the Children
 - Children are especially affected by the effects of global warming
 - Children are at increased risk of **reduced lung function** and **respiratory disease**
 - Children can also face **irregular heartbeat** and in serious cases, **heart attack**
- The Time is Now
 - The decades of ignorance and selfishness **ends now**, as there no longer is time left to prolong
 - Climate change **has to be addressed now**

Main Case Study

- Only have **until 2050** to take action to combat climate change before effects become irreversible
- Humans on track to double pre-Industrial global temperature by 2035
- Third of summer sea ice in Arctic gone, oceans 30 percent more acidic, atmosphere over oceans five percent wetter
- Petroleum corporations unregulated in fracking and drilling for oil, natural gas companies rampant in releasing toxins
 - Stricter laws have to be introduced in order to regulate corporations and reduce emissions
- Constituents can speed up regulation process by pressuring their elected officials to act or be forced out the next election through process of **climate change lawfare**
 - The Inuits became first to directly link climate change with violations of human rights, introducing petition against United States before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC)
- Children especially should not be facing health setbacks in developmental stages in life: the time has come to act against climate change, at least for their sake.
- America “violating its duty to protect the natural resources to which all Americans are entitled” is worthy of being tried in court and tasked with enforcing change
- There is no later time to address climate change anymore: the century of ignorance and denial, or simply, laziness, has passed, with only a few decades left before global warming does irreversible damage to the planet.

Research Problems Encountered

- Proponents of deregulation and a free-market economy argue climate change legislation would stifle growth of industry by preventing them from using their full potential
 - While petrochemical giants would see a decline in profit with the implementation of regulations, effects of climate change simply are too great for companies to continue to exist unregulated while still expecting the world to remain the same.
 - Petrochemical giants have to realize profits are going to be meaningless if Earth becomes uninhabitable: only renewable energy is the future of their profits.
- Critics of creating effective climate change legislation and researching alternative energy sources argue that government cannot afford to embark on those missions with their limited budget.
 - While enacting and enforcing climate change legislation and conducting research in advancing alternative fuels will take significant funding from the government, cost of doing so far less than losses from effects of climate change.
 - Every year, billions of dollars in losses accumulated from weather disasters relating to climate change
 - If America had stayed in the Paris Climate Agreement, investing in clean energy would have gained the US nearly nineteen trillion dollars in the next thirty years



Main Conclusions

- There is no later time to address climate change anymore: the century of ignorance and denial, or simply, laziness, has passed, with only a few decades left before global warming does irreversible damage to the planet.
- The time is now: the future can still be changed for the better.

Citations

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