

Research Like a Boss! - 75 points (8th Grade Student Sample)

Directions: Your task is to complete research to show your skills as a researcher and then compose an intelligent, argumentative paragraph to show your skills as a writer.

Topic Choices:

1. Is global warming a myth or reality?
2. Choose a Presidential candidate, and argue which one would make a better president.
3. Do you support or oppose the death penalty? Why?
4. Drug Use in Sports - Should performance enhancing drugs (such as steroids) be accepted in sports?
5. Do violent video games contribute to youth violence?

What is your claim? 5 points

I believe that global warming is a reality.

Research Questions - Develop three questions to guide your research. 10 points

1. What scientific proof of global warming is there?
2. How rapidly is it growing?
3. How will it affect our lives in the next 100 or so years?

Research Notes - You must get information to support your claim from at least 3 different websites. 30 points

Research Questions	Answer to your question→ Quote, Paraphrase or Summarize	Reliable website URL where you got this information
What is scientific proof of global warming?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The average temperature of the Earth has risen between 32 and 33 degrees over the past 100 years."• "The increased volumes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released by the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing, agriculture, and other human activities, are believed to be the primary sources of the global warming that has occurred over the past 50 years."	http://www.livescience.com/topics/global-warming

<i>How rapidly is it growing?</i>	<i>Scientists have reason to believe that the average temperature of the Earth could increase by 34-42 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100.</i>	http://www.livescience.com/topics/global-warming
<i>How could it affect our lives in the next 100 years?</i>	<i>Things that may results from global warming include rising sea levels due to the melting of ice caps, as well as more severe storms and other weather events happening more often.</i>	http://www.livescience.com/topics/global-warming
<i>Could this, in any way, affect our health?</i>	<i>Melting ice caps cause permafrost, which could release “zombie pathogens” that have been frozen for hundreds of years. The rising temperatures could lead to insects that spread disease to roam to different parts of the world that are warming up.</i>	http://www.livescience.com/55632-deadly-diseases-emerge-from-global-warming.html
<i>How long has global warming been occurring?</i>	<i>“They used those records to trace the thread of human-driven warming back to what they say is its beginning, nearly 200 years ago, when the coal-burning that took off with the Industrial Revolution was still revving up.”</i>	http://www.livescience.com/55878-human-driven-warming-began-200-years-ago.html
<i>How is this affecting our wildlife?</i>	<i>“Climate variability and change affects birdlife and animals in a number of ways; birds lay eggs earlier in the year than usual, plants bloom earlier and mammals are come out of hibernation sooner.”</i>	http://www.climateandweather.net/global-warming/climate-change-and-animals.html

Why did you choose to use these websites? How do you know they are reliable? - 5 points

I chose the first website because it had the word “science” in the title, so I figured that the writers knew what they were talking about. I chose the second website because it ended with .net and those are almost always reliable sites, or at least more reliable than a website with the ending .com.

Did your thinking change due to your research? Explain.

My thinking didn't really change, in fact, now I am even more convinced that global warming is in fact the truth, not a myth.

Paragraph Essay - 25 points

Record your research into an argumentative paragraph in the box below, beginning with your claim. Make sure you correctly cite your information to avoid plagiarism.

As much as it scares me, I do in fact support the theory of global warming. Today, I researched many of the questions that I had about it, and the answers that I found only convinced me more that global warming is anything but fiction. First of all, scientist have actual proof that the Earth's average temperature has, in fact, been rising significantly in the past one-hundred years. "The average temperature of the Earth has risen between 32 and 33 degrees over the past 100 years." This shows that scientist have found proof that our climate is changing. Secondly, I learned that it is growing rather rapidly. As you read in the quote above, it has grown significantly in the past one-hundred years, and scientists believe that this will continue. Scientists have reason to believe that the average temperature of the Earth could increase by 34-42 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100, which is significantly higher than the past one-hundred years. Not only will this affect our daily life by causing even harsher and severe storms to happen more often, but our wildlife is also being greatly affected. The warmer temperatures earlier in the year will cause birds to lay eggs prematurely, as well as plants blooming sooner and animals will come out of hibernation sooner. This means our whole ecosystem could be affected traumatically.