

POHL Solutions to Climate Change Research Paper 2023

“We see global warming not as an inevitability but as an invitation to build, innovate, and effect change, a pathway that awakens creativity, compassion, and genius. This is not a liberal agenda, nor is it a conservative one. This is the human agenda.”

— Paul Hawken, *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*

Background

There is nothing more pressing in our lives today than a plan to reverse global warming. Climate change (see definitions below) is impacting all aspects of our lives. We are experiencing climate change for many reasons, both related to science and social issues. You will inherit a world that looks far different from what we know today. Finding creative and constructive ways to imagine a future founded on climate change solutions is essential.

Overview

You will select one of the “Top 100” solutions to climate change from Project Drawdown, write a 4- to 6-page research paper, and present your findings to the class. For this assignment, we will use current, comprehensive, and cutting-edge research from *Drawdown*— research about the most important climate change solutions. **You should be interested in this assignment as voters, as people who are about to enter the workforce or choose a course of study, as future parents, and—quite simply—as organisms interested in living a good life.**

You will choose one solution to climate change and research the importance and current debate surrounding the topic. You will include information regarding the following: an overview and explanation of the solution, pros and cons of implementing it, the reduction in greenhouse gases, the net cost or savings, its relevance to Montana, key stakeholders (organizations, individuals, governments, etc.) Part of your paper will include an ethical analysis of the issue (stakeholders, competing goods, harms, etc. as well as a Utilitarian analysis). It should be unbiased and present all sides equally. **The paper is worth 170 points, and the assignments leading up to it (annotations, outline, rough draft) are worth 105. The total, including the presentation and audience evaluations, is 375 points.**

There will be only one person per issue. I will run your paper through a plagiarism checker.



A Montana Spin

IF YOU CAN, YOU WILL NEED TO DISCUSS YOUR ISSUE AS IT EXISTS IN MONTANA. One way to make the information fresh and relevant is to contextualize it within our state.

Voice Techniques

One way to captivate your audience is by using a clever, relatable, or interesting voice. Though your paper should be as unbiased as possible, I would like you to explore and incorporate various techniques of nonfiction voice in your paper. This might include a sense of informality, use of first person (“I”), shaping your tone in a playful manner, and a myriad of other techniques. We will look at many examples of nonfiction research and mimic what successful writers do.

Essential Definitions (from *Drawdown* and NASA Climate Kids)

drawdown	how to begin the reduction of greenhouse gases in order to reverse global warming. It means reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.
greenhouse gases	gases in Earth's atmosphere that trap heat. They let sunlight pass through the atmosphere, but they prevent the heat that the sunlight brings from leaving the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons.
global warming	this refers to the surface temperature of the earth. There has been a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere
climate change	the many changes that will occur with increases in temperature and greenhouse gases.

Paper Requirements

- 4-6 pages, plus a 1-page works cited page
- Typed- double-spaced – using standard MLA style
- Size 12 –font, one-inch margins all around

Required Sources

You must have 4 minimum required sources, including the following:

- One article from *Drawdown* (Hawken 2017). I will print this article for you to annotate and use.
- One DOCUMENTARY about your solution. I will allot time in class to find the film, watch it, and take notes.
- The remaining must be credible, sources.
- Highly recommended sources:
 - *National Geo*
 - *Time Magazine*
 - *Discover Magazine*
 - *Scientific American*
 - *The Smithsonian*
 - *Popular Mechanics*
 - *New Scientist*
 - *Popular Science*
- You should also search this database from the Sentinel High School Library.



Presentation

Each student will be required to present their issue to the class through a speech and visual presentation (e.g. Google Slides). Summarize all the information from your paper. You will need visuals, but largely your voice, excitement, and organization will command your excellence. **You may tell us where you stand at the end of your presentation.** Like the written paper, we will examine and incorporate various techniques to make our presentation “voice” more effective too. Each student will be responsible for thoughtfully evaluating 4 peers, and I will assign those pairings.

Possible Topics

See Summary of Solutions PDF in Classroom

See [Project Drawdown](http://www.drawdown.org) Website (www.drawdown.org)