

Exercise 1

Add/edit sections using phrases from the list and adding information to make this a more class-friendly/formal academic presentation. Use a different colour font so the changes are clearly visible.

The world is facing a number of pressing issues, some challenging only a few nations and others challenging the entire world. One such issue is climate change. Whether your country is being directly affected by it or not, it's a topic that is sure to be on the minds of most people. Someone who has put a human face on this global issue is Greta Thunberg. The little known activist from Sweden has been thrown into the spotlight in recent years. However, her rise to fame and her undisputable impact on the world had simple beginnings.

Greta Thunberg was born in 2003 in Sweden, and at the age of eight, she learned about climate change; what's more, she learned how it would seriously affect our civilization and the lives of every living creature on the planet. As a result, she became deeply concerned about this problem, which eventually led to depression, and she couldn't understand why people weren't doing more to fix it.

By the time she was eleven, she was facing other personal challenges. The stress of thinking about climate change had physically impacted her causing her to lose a large amount of weight in a short time. And at around the same time, she was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, which can affect aspects such as focus and communication in social situations. While many might assume that this syndrome would be a challenge, Greta sees it as the gift that gave her the tools that she needed to become the powerful activist she is today.

Greta decided to start her journey to climate activism by changing her own habits. She became a vegan and refused to fly anywhere. In addition, she tried to convince those around her, namely her family, to follow in her footsteps, which they eventually did. Little did they know that these small acts of encouragement would lead her to encourage millions of people, especially students, in all corners of the world.

Taking her ideas public, in 2018, she entered an essay writing contest on climate change, and she won. Perhaps inspired by this, she started, alone, her "School Strike for Climate" outside of the Swedish Parliament building three months later. This quickly grew into a weekly event as she was joined by other students and teachers supporting what became "Fridays for Future". News of these protests spread and soon went viral; students from many countries joined her Friday protests to demand real action on the climate crisis.

In the first half of 2019, Greta accepted many invitations to speak about climate change. She gave speeches to many different governments in Europe and the European Parliament. She became well-known for not only giving short and direct speeches, but also being sharply critical of politicians and their empty promises. For example, when given the opportunity to

Speak at the UN Climate Summit in September of that same year, she tore into the politicians in the audience, saying, “How dare you? I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean, yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you?”

Another of her impassioned pleas was given at the World Economic Forum in Davos—“I don't want you to be hopeful,” she said, “I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.”

Besides her public speaking engagements, she has had the opportunity to speak one-to-one with world leaders such as U.S. President Barack Obama and Pope Francis about the urgency of climate change. There is no doubt that her words have inspired many, but it is unclear whether politicians and business leaders will act. Famous politicians, from President Donald Trump of the U.S., to Russia's Vladimir Putin and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, have personally criticized or made fun of her, not to mention the anti-climate change believers, some of whom have threatened her with violence.

In 2019, she was named *Time* magazine's Person of the Year and, in 2020, was nominated for the Nobel Peace prize.

People have applauded Greta's activism, which has been moving as well as thought-provoking, but at the same time, some doubt that her youth movement is enough to create change. In the face of adversity, Greta has emerged as a force to be reckoned with.