

Essay and Discussion Questions: Climate Change

Understand

- How has industrialization contributed to climate change?
- In what ways might climate change affect you in the near future?
- What does the Paris Agreement require of countries? What does it leave up to individual countries to decide?
- How does the greenhouse effect work? How does raising the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere influence the greenhouse effect?
- What is a feedback loop? How does it work in Greenland's icemelting process?
- What are fossil fuels? How are they different from alternative energy sources?
- What countries contribute the most to climate change today? What countries have contributed the most historically?

Analyze

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of top-down versus bottom-up approaches to mitigation?
- How are debates about addressing climate change connected to imperialism?
- When analyzing greenhouse gas emissions, what are the differences among annual emissions, cumulative emissions, per capita emissions, emissions by economic sector, and emissions by company? What information does each approach provide? What are the benefits of each approach?
- Is there one best energy source? If so, which one? Why or why not?
- How is the Paris Agreement different from previous climate agreements?
- What are the limitations of the Paris Agreement?

Evaluate

- Should the world focus efforts on mitigation, adaptation, or geoengineering? Why?
- Should developing countries like China and India continue industrializing, even though their carbon emissions are increasing as a result?