



## Socratic Seminar: Climate Change

A Socratic Seminar, named after the Greek philosopher Socrates, is a thought provoking discussion on a topic. The topic in this type of discussion is often a controversial topic that would lead to people having opposing view points. The format of this Socratic Seminar will be a guided discussion using the focus questions on the topic.

The Topic: Climate Change

The current climate data has consistently shown that earth's climate has warmed between  $0.75^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the last 130 years. This part of the topic will not be debated. What will be discussed is the hypothesis that the change in global temperature is the direct result of humans. This stance is called the Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) hypothesis.

You are going to be given a specific research focus question. In any one class no more than 4-7 people will have that particular research question. You will also be given a specific side of the issue that you will research. You will either be a skeptic, or an activist. If you are a skeptic, you oppose the AGW hypothesis, and believe the warming planet is the result of natural cycles. If you are a activist, you believe that humans are the cause of climate change, and we need to act now, or we will suffer drastic negative consequences in the near future.

Focus Questions:

1. How are predictions on future climates made, and are these predictions reliable?
2. Why should such a small temperature change be of such concern?
3. Are extreme weather events, like hurricanes and storms, more frequent in recent years, and what does that tell us about the climate? Are these events human created, or are they part of a natural cycle?
4. What are the economic impacts of global climate change?
5. Should the United States pursue a policy of "Cap and Trade"?
6. Climate change might be happening, but it won't have an impact for a long time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Hour \_\_\_\_\_

### Climate Change Socratic Seminar Grading Rubric

Task/Topic	Pts Possible	Pts Earned
Research: hand written research on your question	10	
4 Talking Points: Handwritten, and clear, with direct source listed next to it.	8	
One Discussion Point added during Socratic Seminar. This point can not be a repeated point: Pt. made clearly(1) Pt. made w/ documented source(1) Pt. made w/ appropriate tone, etc...(3)	5	
2 Reliable Sources Listed in MLA Format. Each source should also include a web site evaluation form.	10	
Socratic Seminar Notes	10	
Climate Change Summary: This will occur after the Socratic Seminar. Write a one paragraph persuasive essay on your stance on climate change. You must take a stance, and use points yours, or others research to support it.	7	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	

Directions: For each question include two pieces of evidence to support the activists point of view, and two to support the skeptics point of view. You do not have to fill in information for your question.

Question	Activists Points	Skeptics Points
How are predictions on future climates made, and are these predictions reliable?		
Why should such a small temperature change be of such concern?		
Are extreme weather events, like hurricanes and storms, more frequent in recent years, and what does that tell us about the climate? Are these events human created, or are they part of a natural cycle?		
What are the economic impacts of global climate change?		
Should the United States pursue a policy of “Cap and Trade”?		
Climate change might be happening, but it won't have an impact for a long time.		

