

## An Inconvenient Truth

### Debate and Essays

#### Introduction

*The documentary „An Inconvenient Truth” represents an impressive proof of the crusade held by one man, the American Ex-Vice President Al Gore, regarding the attempt at making people to acknowledge the danger represented by global warming and the imminent measures for disaster mitigation. Humanity, highlights Al Gore, sits on a clock bomb, and if most scientists are right, in 10 years the Earth will witness the largest destruction process ever and the storms, droughts and epidemics maintaining a deadly chain will lead to the extinction of life on Earth.*

*“An Inconvenient Truth”, brings into attention Al Gore’s convincing argument that we should act now to save the Earth. Each of us can change their lifestyle and come up with a solution.*



### Global Warming

Global warming is a global phenomenon caused by many things like: the accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere, the man's activities e.g. air pollution from fossil fuel burning, deforestations, dumping garbage, traffic and industrial pollution and by the population (more people means more food and more methods of transportation).

Global warming has a significant impact on hundreds of plant and animal species around the world. "Birds are laying eggs earlier than usual, plants are blooming earlier and mammals are breaking hibernations sooner" ("An inconvenient truth"). This phenomenon will have serious impacts on the environment and on the society. Higher temperatures will cause the melting of ice in Greenland and Antarctica. The level of sea will increase and that can cause catastrophes of unimaginable proportions. Global warming will affect agriculture and also will affect human's health. There may be more heat-related illnesses in hotter summers, and increased breathing problems caused by reducing air quality. There may be more extreme weather conditions, for example: storms, tsunami, floods and droughts will have severe impact.

As Winston Churchill said "In its place we are entering a period of consequences", and if we do not act now, the effects will be even bigger and hotter than anyone can imagine. A change is needed in the way we live our lives; we need to save the earth before it becomes too late.

Avîrvarei Anamaria

Clasa a XI-a E

### Global Warming

Global warming is caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, CO<sub>2</sub> being one of them, which result from human activities such as deforestation or burning of fossil fuel. This phenomenon changes temperatures all around the globe which makes some animal species disappear and helps developing unusual and dangerous weather conditions.

Another effect of global warming is the melting of the glaciers. That means that the sea level will rise and that will put in danger countries, cities, states near oceans or big rivers. This will also affect, and already does, polar bears which need ice to survive.

Worse is that this is a worldwide phenomenon and although warnings have been given in the past years, ignorance and political or economic benefits made the situation become even more dangerous.

The most polluting country is the USA and that is one of the reasons why Al Gore's movie, „An Inconvenient Truth” was released.

As the movie teaches us there is still time to change and save our planet, but it all depends on us. So speak up in your community, recycle, buy a hybrid vehicle if you can, and try to do what is best for the future of our world.

Irina Ciobica (clasa a XI-a E)

**Dear Diary**

20<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Dear diary...today it was interesting, and I learned at high school about global warming. I found out things that I didn't know, and I'm scared, people need to wake up and see the truth, we need to save the planet, before it is too late. At the English class, I saw a documentary movie with Al Gore about global warming, the causes and effects. I don't understand why in general people are selfish. Politicians handle people for money, to have power. We are numerous in comparison to them, so get up and fight, because the Earth is our home - don't destroy it.

I will tell you what causes global warming: industrial development, pollution in general and most importantly the ignorance for economic and political benefits. I saw how Al Gore tried to fight, to open people's eyes. He ran for presidency against George Bush, and his opponent laughed at him because he cared about nature. If people knew the situation, and wanted to contribute to saving the planet, they would have voted for Al Gore. But here we are, the politician won again in the detriment of the ecologist. This is not fair. All I need to say is for people to wake up and save the planet.

Corolea Claudia (clasa a XI-a E)

### An Inconvenient Truth

Al Gore, former vice-president of America, who in 2007 received the Nobel Peace Prize, warns us about global warming.

Sun radiations come in a form of light waves and warm up the earth. Part of the radiations that warms up the earth is returned back into space as infrared radiations. Some of the outgoing infrared radiations is captured by a layer of atmosphere and kept inside. This is a good thing because that keeps the earth's temperature within certain limits, keeps it constant and tolerable. But the problem is this thin layer of atmosphere that is being thickened by global pollution. More, as this layer of atmosphere thickens more of outgoing infrared radiations are stopped. And so, the atmosphere heats up worldwide. This is the traditional explanation of global warming.

That's not good for animals like polar bears which depends on ice. A new scientific study shows that for the first time polar bears have been found, have actually drowned swimming long distances up to 1000 miles to find ice.

Global warming has profound effects in different areas. It causes or will cause sea level rise, extreme weather, melting glaciers.

Climate change around by special weather phenomena, manifested in recent years with increased amplitude and frequency. On the news there are more frequent reports about the drought or floods accompanied by landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes and blizzards. Scientists argue that, responsible for these extreme events, is the phenomena of global warming.

We can save our global pollution if we use more efficient appliances, if we have clean cars, other transport efficiency, renewable technologies, carbon capture and isolation. Reforestation solves only partially the problem of insufficient carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Each of us is a cause of global warming, but each of us can change that.

Let's make our future sure one and let's join to international efforts to stop global warming!

Petrovici Cornelia Alina  
clasa a IX-a B

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### An Inconvenient Truth

Nowadays, many people are preoccupied with the money crises that we are passing through. They do not look around them to see the changes that are happening on the Earth. The weather is changing every day, the air becomes more and more polluted, the glaciers and the ice cap has been melting; this is a real sign of alarm. Recently I have seen a documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth”, that refers to the Global Warming and I can say that we are all in great danger.

First of all, with the Global Warming the most vulnerable part is the atmosphere, which becomes thin, so thin that it might change its composition. Solar radiation in the form of light waves passes through the atmosphere, most of this radiation is absorbed by the Earth and warms, but some energy is radiated back into space by the Earth in the form of infrared waves. Moreover, some of this outgoing infrared radiation is trapped by the Earth’s atmosphere, is held inside it and warms it, that is how the temperature of the atmosphere is being kept.

Secondly, what made Al Gore introduce to the world the Global Warming, was for instance, the death of his own son, who was hit by a car, the death of his friend of cancer, and his father’s tobacco plantation, after he did some research that involves the changes that appeared. For example, the thinning of the ice cap that in a few years might disappear. When the sunlight hits the ice most of it is bounced off back to space like a mirror, but when it hits the ocean most of it is absorbed, so the surrounding water gets warmer and speeds up the melting of the ice. In this way the ice cap acts like a giant mirror.

Last but not the least, Al Gore tells us that when he was a kid, his father had a tobacco plantation and from this tobacco were produced cigarettes. That is how the lung cancer appeared in his life. The tobacco produced the cigarette and the cigarette produced the cancer. After the death of his friend of lung cancer, his father stopped planting, thinking of other people that could die. However, there had been a lot of warnings about disaster that is about to come, but people ignored all, thinking that will have effects in time and now we are trying to handle with the consequences of our ignorance. Even so, Global Warming is still acting and for now the most polluting country is America, because it is one of the most developed countries.

In conclusion, the consequences of all this will be devastating: less potable water, more floods and drought even the disappearing of continents. Each of us is a cause of Global Warming, the solutions are in our hand, but we must have the determination to make them happen. This issue is a moral one, so it is our time to secure our future, or our children’s future. There are a lot of things that we can do such as: buy a hybrid car, walk more or ride a bicycle, use light rail, switch to renewable sources of energy, plant trees. If we do only a part of this we might be able to save our Planet, we can not wait for others to do our things, like an old proverb says: “When you pray, move your feet.”

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SCANGHEL OANA, XII C

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### An Inconvenient Truth

Global warming is the most discussed issue by the scientists. Most people would agree that there is not a real problem, but the documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” made me change my way of thinking. Al Gore’s movie is an inspiring call to action for those ready to fight for solutions to save the Earth’s climate. “An Inconvenient Truth” is not a story of despair but rather a cry to protect the Earth we all share.

First of all, we are responsible for global warming .The film shows which are the causes that lead to this phenomenon: the pollution of air, of water, of ground. In addition, the sunrays are more powerful due to thinning of atmosphere. In my opinion, the effects of this warming presented in the documentary are convincing: there are extreme phenomena such as floods; many lakes are evaporating. Apart from this, the glaciers are melting down and this makes continents and fresh water disappear. Like others, I think that it is neither a local phenomenon, nor a regional one; it is a global one which makes it even more scaring.

Secondly, we all contribute to global warming every day. The CO<sub>2</sub> you produce by driving your car and leaving the lights on adds up quickly. In my opinion, every plant contributes O<sub>2</sub> production more than CO<sub>2</sub>. But even the vegetation is affected by the pollution which causes to an aging of all that is green and, in addition, to develop the production of CO<sub>2</sub>. Moreover, there have been warnings about the disaster. Al Gore said that the melting of ice was ignored by the scientists because they thought this melting can happen in hundreds of years; but the “inconvenient truth” came even quickly.

To conclude, it seems to me that the documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” is by far the most believable film I have ever seen. A long time advocate for environment, Gore presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way. I am convinced that the solutions are even more than we have ever imagined: we must only listen and do what we can. For instance, we can buy a hybrid car or use the local transport for long distance; we can use renewable energies instead of the non-renewable ones, we can plant trees and the list continues. Let’s save our home! Let’s save the Earth!

PANAINTE ANDREEA,

Clasa a XII-a C

### **An Inconvenient Truth**

We've all heard about "global warming" maybe too many times before but we have never tried to understand what it really means. "An inconvenient truth", a documentary that made global warming a ticklish subject, based on Albert Al Gore's election campaign with George W. Bush for the presidency of United State of America, is the perfect impulse for a rude awakening.

Firstly, it's very fact based. Al Gore starts the presentation with the main causes of global warming, very known already. Pollution, greenhouse gases, ultraviolet radiations, the release of CO<sub>2</sub> are those that contribute to overheating the Earth. Once with this phenomenon, the ozone layer thickens and the effects on Earth are more than visible: fires, melting glaciers, floods etc.

For instance, the biggest danger of global warming is the glaciers that melt down. The climate is one of the most visible effect, with big differences between temperatures, that affect vegetation and animals. Once with the climate changes interferes the melting of the glaciers, the growing of the sea level and finally the flooding of surrounding region

From another point of view many people argue that they know enough about this topic but indeed nobody has the courage to start doing something. Al Gore gave us an example from his own life, when his father had a tobacco plantation and when one of his friend died from lung cancer, he stopped the whole business. He realised that it forms a vicious chain between the tobacco he had planted and the people that buy cigarettes.

To put it in other ways, people have talked so much about this topic that many of them now are saying: "If nothing bad happened till now, nothing bad is going to happen from now on". But in fact, the things are now more complicated than ever before, the global warming became a global phenomenon and the most polluting country is U.S.A

Taking everything that Al Gore presented us into consideration, seeing all the statistics and the real examples that gave us, I really believe that we all need a second look on this controversial issue. We could stop saying: "Why should I do something if nobody does?", and start taking the initiative. With small things like recycling, planting trees, buying a hybrid vehicle, using economic light bulbs, we are helping the planet by releasing less CO<sub>2</sub>.

Encourage everyone you know to watch this documentary and step-by-step, we all together can make a better planet.

Pricopi Daniela

Clasa a XII-a C

### **An Inconvenient Truth**

“An Inconvenient Truth” is a documentary movie based on real facts, in which Albert Al Gore, the man who raced George W. Bush in electoral campaign for the presidency of United States of America presents the effects of global warming and how it affects human kind. I strongly believe that the presence of Al Gore in this movie has a certain impact on people’s way of treating this issue. His documentary movie was presented in many states of the world by Al Gore himself in order to make the difference for Earth safety.

Firstly, Al Gore presented the main causes of global warming: pollution, ultraviolet radiations, greenhouse gases. The entire Earth surface is affected by global warming. This factor affects directly the Earth by overheating it, and by this causing fires and the melting of glaciers, this way growing sea level and flooding finally the low altitude regions.

Another disadvantage of global warming is the release of CO<sub>2</sub> from factories which causes the raise of atmosphere layer. Due to the large atmosphere, the ultraviolet rays are maintained around the Earth, overheating it and causing global disasters.

A further disadvantage of global warming is climate. This has a negative development for human kind. The temperature has raised in the past few years as it should change in over a century. Although global warming is already acting and affecting the Earth, the majority of people just do not react to this, on the grounds they are not directly affected. The lack of interest among the people is an effect of the incapable authorities to call up the people to do something to stop global warming.

In order to maintain his role of hero, Al Gore presented significant moments from his childhood; he built himself a strong character. Despite the fact that his parents main income came from tobacco plantation, they stopped planting it when his friend from childhood died of lung cancer because she smoked tobacco. They did not agree with the fact that their business can harm human kind.

Finally, Al Gore advised everyone to participate at this campaign of saving our planet by releasing less CO<sub>2</sub>, planting more vegetation to consume existing CO<sub>2</sub>, to recycle, try to buy hybrid vehicles, use economic light bulbs, encourage everyone to watch this movie in order to mobilize the people in making the world a better place for us.

In conclusion, I think we should take into account the actual situation of our planet, we should be more careful. All together, we should win this battle against global warming for our own sake, to have quiet, unpolluted, comfortable environment.

Butnariu Bianca