

Earth Day Debate Cards

Imagine you are a representative of your country at the Paris Climate Change Summit.

Decide whether you are 'for' or 'against' making a change, then take a debate card and present the point of view as persuasively and accurately as you can.



Earth Day Debate Cards

Argument Against Making a Change

Global warming is having a good effect! My country experiences brighter, warmer summers. Our farmers can grow a wider variety of fruit that was not possible ten years ago. It means the winters aren't too bad either - snow and ice just made it difficult to get to work anyway.



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Argument Against Making a Change

Fossil fuels are essential in our country. With more cars on the road, there is greater demand for fuel. Industry is booming because there is a customer demand for oil. By using fossil fuels, our country creates jobs, which in turn makes us money. We will make sure we invest this money in the safe drilling and mining of fossil fuels.



Earth Day Debate Cards

Argument Against Making a Change

People believe it's better to leave things like the TV and computer on standby. That way they are ready when you need them. It doesn't really use so much electricity, does it? People need to be constantly connected to the Internet.



Argument Against Making a Change

We are a developing country. By using fossil fuels for power stations, we produce cheap electricity to keep homes warm and industry running. We cannot possibly afford to use renewable energy as it costs too much to make electricity this way.



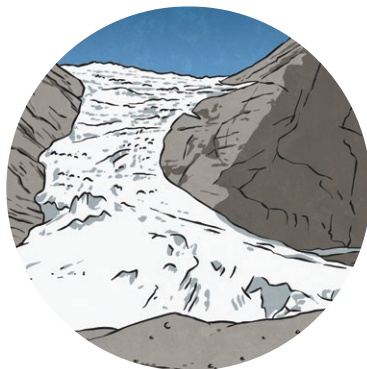
Argument Against Making a Change

There are laws in place that govern how companies mine in order to make it as safe as possible. The government always insists there are plans to make the area concerned as beautiful as possible. Waste must be disposed of safely, trees should be planted around the site and the land should be returned to how it was after the mine has shut. So you see? Mining sites can be a haven for wildlife!



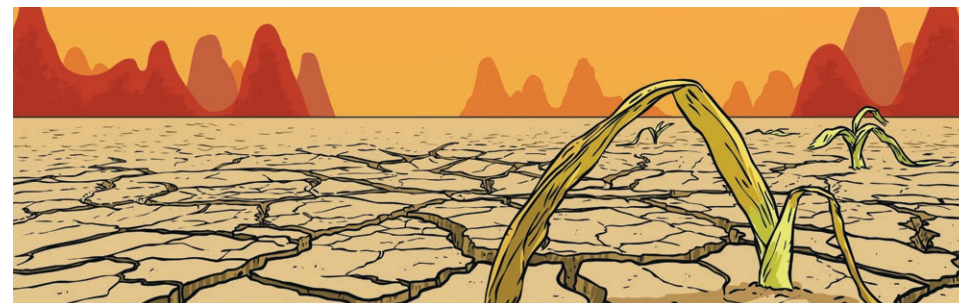
Argument Against Making a Change

The climate on earth has always changed, heating and cooling over the centuries. Did you know the river Thames froze over in 1814? "Global warming" is just a myth - the warming we see is a natural event.



Argument For Making a Change

For farmers in my country, their crops do not grow because there is drought. Climate change means the rain does not fall. There is less food and there is a risk of famine. What if my people can't feed their family?



Argument For Making a Change

Too many people drive a car, often with just one person inside. In my country, we encourage the use of public transport. This is better because lots of people would share the fuel. People can car-share to work and save money. We should invest money in public transport, not fossil fuels.



Argument For Making a Change

You should encourage people to always switch electrical equipment off fully when not in use. As well as being a fire risk, this will save money and save the planet. Leaving devices switched on when they are not needed is wasteful and unnecessary.



Argument For Making a Change

My country plans to invest in renewable energy sources such as wind turbines. Yes, there is a high cost to begin with but we feel this way of producing electricity will eventually pay for itself because it will not run out and does not pollute. It will be cheaper overall as it is sustainable. By constructing wind farms, for example, we can provide skilled jobs for communities for many years to come.



Argument For Making a Change

Taking fossil fuel from the Earth is polluting the environment. Because supplies of fossil fuels are running out, we must dig and drill deeper into the Earth to get to the coal and gas. This destroys habitats. Not only are we running out of fossil fuels, we are in danger of losing animal and plant species forever!



Argument For Making a Change

Scientists based in the Arctic have measured how much the ice is melting. They report that the Columbia Glacier in Alaska has retreated by 13km since 1982. In 1999, the retreat rate increased from 25m per day to 35m per day. They believe that this almost certainly contributes to sea levels rising. They have also observed that polar bears are losing their habitat. With no ice to hunt from, they are forced to either widen their hunt area or starve.



Chairperson

The role of the Chairperson to make sure that everyone's point of view is listened to.