
The Climate Debate

Segment Length: 4:09 minutes; 6:30 minutes

Videos:

“Climate Change 101 with Bill Nye”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtW2rrLHs08>

“The Truth About Climate Change”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3hHi4sylvxE>

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. In the first video Bill Nye says climate change is a real and serious issue. How would Pat Michaels respond to this?
2. John Stossel says we must choose what problems to tackle and climate change is not among the most pressing issues. According to Stossel, why can't we address more serious problems *and* take care to be part of the solution to climate change?
3. Pat Michaels and Bill Nye agree that the earth is warming, and that human activity is likely playing a role in that process. Where do they disagree?
4. Pat Michaels argues that we shouldn't care if the earth warms by a degree in the next sixty years. How would Bill Nye respond?
5. Judith Curry says that she knows climate experts who disagree with alarmists but won't speak out. Why won't they?
6. If fossil fuel use is causing the planet to warm, which could have disastrous consequences down the road, shouldn't we stop or seriously limit the burning of fossil fuels? What would be the cost of taking this course of action?
7. Bill Moomaw relates climate change to a hot car on a sunny day. What's the connection?
8. Judith Curry and Pat Michaels claim science is on their side. If that is so, why are so many scientists opposed to their position, according to Curry and Michaels?

9. John Stossel asks why we should turn our lives upside down on the basis of inaccurate climate models. What would Bill Nye say in response?
10. Both sides of this issue stress the influence of money in science. What does each side say?