

Climate Conversations: Scenarios for Role Playing

A. Weather Predications

Joe Q. Public: If we cannot correctly forecast the weather for tomorrow, how can we talk about what's going to happen in 20 years or more?

Your response...

B. Carbon dioxide is good for us!

Joe Q. Public: Well, I'm a farmer and as we all learned in school, more CO₂ is better for plants. I'm going to be a rich man with all the good this does my crops!

Your response.....

C. Questionable data

Jane Q. Public: I heard that some climate data is not correct since it is from scientists who put their instruments in places like cities which are warmer than the rural areas.

Your response.....

D. Small changes can't be very bad

Jane Q. Public: If there's only been 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit warming over the last 100 years, why does it matter? Don't we have bigger problems to worry about right now?

Your response...

E. Consensus among scientists?

Joe Q. Public: I've done a lot of reading about this on the internet, and I see real scientists all over the place that don't believe climate change is caused by people.

Your response.....

F. Natural Cycles

Jane Q. Public: Climate change has happened in the past. It will correct itself like it did before, right?

Your response...

G. It's the Sun!

Joe Q. Public: I heard that the sun gets hotter at times and that's what is causing climate change.

Your response...

H. I like warm weather climates.

Jane D. Public: So what if it gets warmer around the world? My trip to Costa Rica was heavenly. Having more tropical areas is a good thing! Seems like shorter winters would be better overall – more time to grow food, less time being cold.

Your response...