

# Global Warming

Natural Science Inquiry, Spring 2000  
Assignment Due Date: Thursday, May 4

Conduct an investigation on global warming and write a 4-6 page article (double-spaced, reasonable 10- or 12- point font) describing the situation. In the article, answer the following questions:

1. Is global warming really occurring?
2. If global warming is occurring, is it caused by human activities? (Is there evidence of a causal connection, of the type we looked for in the medical research articles in class?)
3. If global warming is occurring, is it a serious concern? (Be sure to distinguish “human-caused” from “bad.” Many natural things are harmful, and many man-made things are beneficial. I’d like you to focus specifically on the magnitude of the consequences: do they merit serious concern, in comparison to other things we have to be concerned about?)

Present (or refer to) data to support any arguments you make. Be sure to address opposing arguments that could be raised. Identify the uncertainties about the data and don’t cover up contrary evidence. Use at least 6 resources to insure that you acquire a reasonably broad picture of the claims and the evidence. Only web sites with different domain names ([www.something.com/org/edu](http://www.something.com/org/edu)) count as separate references, but please include the full web address when indicating your references.

Your paper will be graded on clarity of writing (including grammar and spelling), your presentation of the arguments on both sides, and the thoughtfulness of your evaluation of the arguments in answering the questions above. Be sure to indicate your references using footnotes or endnotes. You may want to refer to some of the information on writing that you received in your packet on the first day of class.