

# Ways To Save Our Earth

3E Don Cheung

Dear Mr. Gore, Jr.,

My name is Don Cheung, a Grade Nine student studying at Chan Shu Kui Memorial School in Hong Kong (SAR), and I am writing to share with you my view on global environmental protection work. The first time I heard of your name was during our Life and Environment Education class where our teacher introduced us to your latest film "Inconvenience Truth". The production has really inspired me a lot, and I have started to be concerned about issues like global warming, ice-melting in the Arctic Circle and the greenhouse effect, which I have not been aware of previously.

I have learnt from the film that glaciers in the South Pole are in danger of melting, owing to the excess amount of carbon dioxide produced around the globe. We are lucky at this moment that the ice there can still stand the short-wave radiation. However, once global warming is out of control, not only will the glacier melt rapidly, a lot more problems like those that appeared in the film will appear when the ocean receives and absorbs the short-wave radiation directly. Thus, we must face this problem and deal with it with no delay, but the question is: what is the source of the problem?

Various studies have proved that since we have entered the millennium, global warming will not increase so rapidly without serious dust emission in industrial areas. In order to maximize their profit and lower their production cost, factory owners choose to use impure raw materials with the least efforts to reduce the poisonous gas they have produced. This worsens the situation and speeds up the destruction of the glacier. I really want to ask those businessmen: "How dare you sacrifice the beautiful nature and our precious life for your own financial interest? It's definitely unacceptable!"

Another possible reason for the ice-melting is the increasing number of private car ownership. Cars using petrol also emit a lot of dusty gas. Under this contaminated condition, not only do we and animals find it difficult to breathe, but re-radiation of long-wave radiation from the ground at night is also impeded. In other words, the dust traps the heat on the Earth and speeds up the destruction of glaciers. Some people may argue that driving their own cars is essential, and so we cannot do anything to solve the problem. This is, however, not true. We can work together to save our Earth.

To reduce the amount of dust emitted from factories for instance, governments of all countries can require factory owners to use fuels that results in less pollutants and require them to install filters to their chimneys. In this way, emissions of dust can be lowered. Besides this, we, as citizens, can help lower this if we use less electricity and less plastic bags. If we choose to use electrical appliances with energy labels and remember to turn off the lights when we do not need them, clearly less coal will be needed to produce electricity. Also, if we can bring our own bag when we go shopping, less plastic bags will be used, thus helping to reduce the number of these bags being dumped in the landfills.

Similarly, I believe the air can be much cleaner if fewer people use their own private cars. This can only happen if the transportation network of a country is efficient, with a variety of public transport available regularly without making people wait too long. To encourage people to use public transport, the government can subsidise the transportation fees for a few years, aid the adding of dust filters to these vehicles and increase the tax on cars. A few years later, we can enjoy fresher air and glaciers will no longer melt.

Mr. Gore, after watching your film, I realise the inconvenient consequence of continuing to live this way. We should not leave the “sustainable development” only a slogan. All people need to work together to save our air, to save our glaciers, to save our Earth, to save all human beings and to save our future. Let’s fight for our blue sky with no delay!

Best Regards,  
Don

Teacher’s Feedback : In this problem-solution type of essay, you can summarise the points you have got from the movie, followed by solutions to the problems you have outlined. You show the attitude of the writer towards the seriousness of the problems and the urgency to solve them. At the end, audience awareness is shown to encourage people to work together. It’s a nice piece of writing. Keep it up.  
(Mr. Tsoi Chun Ho)

Food For Thought : Yes, there are a lot of things the government can do, but what can you do to save the earth as well?