

## **Example of an Essay introduction**

### 1.1 Introduction

Global warming is the primary environmental challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; nevertheless, policy makers in the West seem incapable of passing the laws necessary to combat the rise in global atmospheric temperatures. Consequently, without a strong change in direction, the world seems set to experience unprecedented and destructive changes in its climate.

Scientists first became aware of global warming in the mid-1980s[1], and by the 2010s, an overwhelming majority of climatologists agreed that the phenomenon was predominantly caused by human activity, more specifically by the release of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels to power vehicles, heat houses and generate electricity [1]. Despite this consensus, however, the reaction from Western policy makers has been wholly inadequate, focusing primarily on non-binding international agreements and ineffective emission trading schemes [2]. As a result, the world seems set to pass the critical threshold of a 2°C rise in global temperatures within the next 20 years [2].

This essay will argue that the political systems in Western democracies are incapable of making the potentially unpopular policy decisions necessary to combat climate change. Instead, what is required are systems that offer the kind of strong and stable leadership capable of legislating to protect the environment despite hostile public opinion. The essay begins by providing a more detailed explanation of the causes of climate change, after which it analyses the policies thus far enacted in the West to combat that change and the reasons for Western democracies' seeming inability to make the difficult decisions necessary to avert an environmental catastrophe. Finally, the essay explores alternative political systems and recommends a model of limited democracy that allows leaders the freedom to oppose public opinion in order to serve the global good

### General statement

Global warming is the primary environmental challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; nevertheless, policy makers in the West seem incapable of passing the laws necessary to combat the rise in global atmospheric temperatures. Consequently, without a strong change in direction, the world seems set to experience unprecedented and destructive changes in its climate.

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Background  
Information

### Thesis statement

This essay will argue that the political systems in Western democracies are incapable of making the potentially unpopular policy decisions necessary to combat climate change. Instead, what is required are systems that offer the kind of strong and stable leadership capable of legislating to protect the environment despite hostile public opinion. The essay begins by providing a more detailed explanation of the causes of climate change, after which it analyses the policies thus far enacted in the West to combat that change and the reasons for Western democracies' seeming inability to make the difficult decisions necessary to avert an environmental catastrophe. Finally, the essay explores alternative political systems and recommends a model of limited democracy that allows leaders the freedom to oppose public opinion in order to serve the global good.

Outline of essay