

Graphic Organizer: English III: Module 2: Lesson 2: Section 3:

Drawing Conclusions: Excerpt #2

Directions: Read the speech and answer the questions below. Mouse over the buttons to see a comparison response.

James M. Inhofe, United States Senator (R-OK), stated the following in his Sept. 25, 2006 speech “Hot & Cold Media Spin: A Challenge to Journalists Who Cover Global Warming”:

I am going to speak today about the most media-hyped environmental issue of all time, global warming...

The media have missed the big pieces of the puzzle when it comes to the Earth’s temperatures and mankind’s carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. It is very simplistic to feign horror and say the one degree Fahrenheit temperature increase during the 20th century means we are all doomed. First of all, the one degree Fahrenheit rise coincided with the greatest advancement of living standards, life expectancy, food production and human health in the history of our planet. So it is hard to argue that the global warming we experienced in the 20th century was somehow negative or part of a catastrophic trend.

Second, what the climate alarmists and their advocates in the media have continued to ignore is the fact that the Little Ice Age, which resulted in harsh winters which froze New York Harbor and caused untold deaths, ended about 1850. So trying to prove man-made global warming by comparing the well-known fact that today’s temperatures are warmer than during the Little Ice Age is akin to comparing summer to winter to show a catastrophic temperature trend.

In addition, something that the media almost never addresses are the holes in the theory that CO2 has been the driving force in global warming. Alarmists fail to adequately explain why temperatures began warming at the end of the Little Ice Age in about 1850, long before man-made CO2 emissions could have impacted the climate. Then about 1940, just as man-made CO2 emissions rose sharply, the temperatures began a decline that lasted until the 1970’s, prompting the media and many scientists to fear a coming ice age.

Let me repeat, temperatures got colder after CO2 emissions exploded. If CO2 is the driving force of global climate change, why do so many in the media ignore the many skeptical scientists who cite these rather obvious inconvenient truths?”

[Inhofe graduated from the University of Tulsa with a degree in economics and was a businessman for three decades, mostly in insurance, before entering politics.]

1. Who is the author of this speech? Is he an expert on climate change?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

2. Give an example of evidence he uses in the excerpt:

Mouse over for a comparison response.

3. Where is he getting his evidence?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

4. Give 2 examples of “loaded terms” he uses:

Mouse over for a comparison response.

5. What is the date of his speech?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

6. Does he believe in global warming or not?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

7. Explain whether he is a credible source or not.

Mouse over for a comparison response.

Graphic Organizer: English III: Module 2: Lesson 2: Section 3:

Drawing Conclusions: Excerpt #3

Directions: Read the article and answer the questions below. Mouse over the buttons to see a comparison response.

Roy W. Spencer, PhD, Principal Research Scientist at the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, stated the following in his Oct. 20, 2008, article “Global Warming as a Natural Response to Cloud Changes Associated with the Pacific Decadal Oscillation”:

We are finding satellite evidence that the climate system is much less sensitive to greenhouse gas emissions than the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) climate models suggest that it is. And if that is true, then mankind’s CO2 emissions are not strong enough to have caused the global warming we’ve seen over the last 100 years...

[M]ost of the warming could be the result of a natural cycle in cloud cover forced by a well-known mode of natural climate variability: the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). While the PDO is primarily a geographic rearrangement in atmospheric and oceanic circulation patterns in the North Pacific, it is well known that such regional changes can also influence weather patterns over much larger areas...

[R]ecent satellite measurements—even though they span only 7.5 years—support the Pacific Decadal

1. Who is the author of this speech? Is he an expert on climate change?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

2. Give an example of evidence he uses in the excerpt:

Mouse over for a comparison response.

3. Where is he getting his evidence?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

4. Does Spencer use “loaded” language?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

5. What is the date of his article?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

6. Does Spencer believe in global warming or not?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

7. Explain whether he is a credible source or not.

Mouse over for a comparison response.

Directions: Answer the questions below using both Excerpt #2 and #3. Mouse over the buttons to see a comparison response.

1. Of the two authors, which one is the most credible?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

2. Explain why he is the most credible.

Mouse over for a comparison response.

3. Why were you asked each time to note the date of the speech or article?

Mouse over for a comparison response.

4. What are your thoughts about climate change? Where have you gained your knowledge on the subject?

Mouse over for a comparison response.