

AOS/NIES 171 Prof. Hitchman Spring 2025 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Oral Assignment #3 “The Great Debates”

10 points Tuesday April 29 and Thursday May 1

What do you think we should do, as a global society, about the global change problems that we have been discussing? We will explore these ideas in the format of debating postulated statements, which will be chosen by you. Attached is a list of possible debate statements. But it would be more fun if we debated statements that you came up with. Please send me your idea of an interesting statement to debate and it will be included for consideration.

You will select the debate statements by voting, in class, on **Thursday April 24**. Then we will check the (randomized) list which tells you if you are on the pro or con side and which statement you are debating. There will be three or four people on each side. You will have some time in class to work on this with your team. You may find yourself advocating a position which you disagree with. This can help us to understand other points of view and to be more effective in explaining our own point of view.

To receive 5 points, please come to class both days, and participate in your debate, and for the other 5 points, turn in a brief description of your contribution to your side of the debate statement.

GLOBAL CHANGE DEBATE STATEMENTS: Vote for four statements.

1. The U.S. should cut the military budget to fund environmental programs.
2. Nuclear energy is a viable solution to the current energy problem.
3. Impoverished people cannot concern themselves with environmental issues.
4. Education is the key to solving environmental problems.
5. The U.S. should intervene in countries with tropical deforestation.
6. The definition of economic value should be expanded.
7. Global warming will likely improve global agricultural production.
8. Computers are good for the world.
9. The U.S. should regulate companies' environmental impacts more carefully.
10. The U.S. should impose a large gas tax.
11. The worth of human civilization is greater than the worth of biodiversity.
12. Carbon trading is good for the planet.
13. We need to change our habits radically to help the planet.
14. Capitalism is destroying the earth and corporate globalization is at the core of this crisis.
15. The U.S. should support future climate treaties.
16. Global warming is causing an increase in extreme weather.
17. Buying green is a useless fad.
18. Biofuels alleviate greenhouse warming.
19. Genetically modified foods are good for the world.
20. Traditional universities are obsolete.
21. The truth is easier to agree upon with increasing availability of information.
22. Electronic books are better for the environment than paper books.
23. Fires in the western U.S. are caused by global warming.
24. Satellites don't cause much trouble.
25. Gas engine cars use less fossil fuel per mile than electric cars.
26. The government should subsidize self-sufficiency in solar power.
27. We should ban chemicals which kill bees and other pollinators.
28. An individual should have the right to own and plant seeds, not just corporations.
29. \*\* Your debate statement! \*\*