

### **One-Page Essay #3: Anthropogenic Warming's Impact on the Biosphere**

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Please write a "one page" (about 500 words, or two double-spaced pages) assessing the impact of Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) on a specific aspect of the Biosphere.

The first of two possible directions is to evaluate the impact of changing climate on specific organisms or ecosystems. Why did you choose whales, or corals, or mosquitoes, or ... to write about? How does the changing climate change the "boundary conditions" for these plants or animals? Why should we care? What are the economic, aesthetic, ethical, or other implications? What is the importance of things like ecosystem services to which one can assign a monetary value compared with truth and beauty, which are less quantifiable, but perhaps more important?

The second possible direction is to assess AGW in relation to natural variability of the climate or other human impacts such as development, land use, habitat loss, chemical pollution, or overpopulation. Is AGW only one of many human-induced changes or is it the most important? Or may it become most important? Here too, you will need to think about factors like economics and ethics that lie outside of science. Tell me if AGW the most important human impact on the natural world or are other things that we do to the plants and animals around us more destructive or more beneficial?

This assignment is much more free-form than the previous ones. I'm interested in what you think.

Your papers will be due Monday 19 March 2018.

Please follow the format of this assignment sheet for your paper. This document is about 340 words. Your paper should be a bit less than twice that long. You may include one figure if it supports your arguments. A few references following the format below are also OK, but not essential. Don't include the text as a reference.

Please submit your paper to me in hardcopy and electronically to the Turnitin account for this class.

#### **Reference.**

Bloom, Arnold, J., 2010: *Global Climate Change*. Sinauer Assoc. Inc., Sunderland, MA, USA, 398 pp.,