

# Ninth Grade Summary Writing Assignment

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

ES \_\_\_\_\_

## Summary Writing Assignment

### Directions:

- Read the informational article on the following page.
- As you read, you may mark the article or make notes. Marks and notes will not be scored as they are not part of your summary.
- After reading the article, write a summary of what you have read. Take time to read the article, plan (on a separate piece of paper using memorized graphic organizers), write your summary (double space), and proofread your summary.
- You may reread or go back to the article at any time during your writing.

### Scoring:

Your writing will be scored on how well you:

- State the main ideas of the article.
- Identify the most important details that support the main ideas.
- Use your own words in writing the summary.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

### Writing Assignment:

- Write a summary of the article.

# Global Warming

Global warming is perhaps one of the most hotly debated environmental issues. Is the world getting warmer, and should society worry about it? Many scientists think that global warming is an important issue that may have devastating consequences for humanity. Other scientists think that the global warming issue is overblown and that there is very little need to worry.

Those that say that global warming is not a threat, say that scientific models used to predict the climate do not deal with the planet's complex ecosystem. The atmosphere is too complex for computer models to predict successfully what Earth's climate will be like centuries into the future. If it could be done, scientists say, then global climate models should be able to predict changes a year into the future, which they cannot do.

Although skeptics agree that the climate has changed recently, they believe that climate change is a natural phenomenon that does not pose a threat to humans. They point out that Earth has gone through many climate changes in its history that are unrelated to human activity. They also argue that the kind of data that are needed to show temperature trends has only been available for the last hundred years or so—too short a time period in which to create a reliable model.

Other scientists argue that even if global warming is occurring, the change in temperature is not enough to warrant such alarm. They point out that many parts of the world experience huge changes in climate regularly with no bad effects. They also argue that the warming trend will be offset by adjustments in Earth's climate system, such as the formation of more clouds. More clouds would reflect more solar radiation back into space and tend to reduce warming.

Scientists concerned with global warming attribute the increase in temperatures to increases in carbon dioxide due to human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels. They believe that temperature increases will melt sea ice and ice sheets, causing a global rise in the sea level. This will lead to shoreline erosion and coastal flooding. Global warming is also thought to change weather patterns. Hurricanes are believed to increase in number and intense heat waves and droughts will occur in some regions.

Article excerpt from *Prentice Hall Earth Science*, 2005