



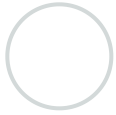
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**This is a graded discussion: 10 points possible**

due Sep 18

**D3 Discussion: Conspiracy Theories, Pseudo Science, vs Science?**Erin O'Connor

Sep 6 at 2:24pm

137

**Conspiracy Theories, Pseudo Science, vs. Hard Science:** In the late 1500's to mid 1600's the Catholic Church controlled Europe. Copernicus was afraid to publish his results and Galileo was imprisoned by the Catholic Church for his "radical" ideas. Fortunately, today scientists don't get executed for gathering data and coming to conclusions based on proper observations (*they get "CANCELED" instead, which professionally is worse*). However, there is still tension between science and politics, and there are still people who believe conspiracy theories, and refuse to believe the results of science.

Please write a short paragraph (using correct spelling and grammar, please!) in which you take a look at a **major issue of today** in which the science is very clear, but certain political and ideological groups may be denying the hard, scientific evidence. Open discourse on controversial subjects is critical in the progression of science. Please be respectful of all other's views and opinions. Use science to make your point. To get full credit please include the following:

**a. State the issue clearly, in one or two sentences. (3 pts.)**

**b. Describe some of the evidence from science which refutes the false narrative, and cite where you read about this evidence. Be careful to use reputable sources! (7 pts.)**

**What to write:**

In your discussion post, (a) answer the questions given above with a blank line between each, then (b) ASK one question which your fellow students will answer, then (c) ANSWER a question from another student's post.

Here is an example of how to ask a question. Write out the word QUESTION all in CAPS so that your fellow students will clearly see what your question is.

**QUESTION: "Do you think....?" or "How would you find...." or "Can you explain....?" etc...**

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**Reply**



**maddie Jacobs** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/429499>)

Sep 6, 2022

When I read this prompt the first example that came to mind was global warming. Global warming is the heating of earth's outer layer over time due to humans increased use of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases which trap heat in our atmosphere. Although this isn't a political issue and it has been proven to be true through multiple scientific studies, there is still an ongoing political conversation about whether or not the U.S. should prioritize alternate energy sources or expand fossil fuel production. According to the United States environmental protection agency, the current levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere are higher than at any point over the past 800,000 years, and it has shown in our earth's rising temperature. According to the U.S. global change research program, the temperature has risen by 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit globally. There is much more that goes into the debate, but the fact of the matter is that climate change is very real and shouldn't be treated as a political issue but people should instead take the time to look at the scientific studies and educate themselves over the topic.

QUESTION: Do you think that if climate change and using fossil fuels wasn't talked about in politics then people would take it more seriously and treat it as a real issue?

[← Reply](#)



**Scott Schwiebert** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/431009>)

Sep 7, 2022

Hey Maddie, I feel like climate change is talked about by a lot of people but the ones with power to change this tend to "turn a blind eye" to climate change because they know it will ruin their business and hurt the economy. Not to mention that the political parties in America may never reach a consensus on how to save the future of the world without ruining future economy for upcoming generations.

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Good response to Maddie. We may not fix climate change, but climate change doesn't care. It's just going to do what it does.

 [Reply](#)**Rachel Zehnder** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/49723/users/435150>)

Sep 7, 2022

Hi Maddie! I think climate change being talked about in politics has its pros and cons. Many choose to educate themselves and want to do something about it and others feel that if we go completely green and stop the production of goods that emit greenhouse gasses it will ruin our economy. I don't think people would take it more seriously, but maybe people would come to a mutual agreement on what to do about it easier.

 [Reply](#)**Nicholas Tait** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/49723/users/429967>)

Sep 12, 2022

Not really because people are used to fossil fuels. Renewable energy needs to be marketed properly as easier and cheaper for it to take effect.

 [Reply](#)**Reiley Omdahl** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/49723/users/19111>)

Sep 14, 2022

I don't think it would be that much of a difference because if people really thought it was an issue whether it be in the news or not the news they should act on it if they truly think it's a problem.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbcc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Well thought out discussion. I like how you point out that most people who reject the science of global warming are in positions of political power, which suggests they might have something to gain by rejecting the threat of global warming. Taking global warming concerns seriously may result in the decommissioning of old technologies and development of new technologies, so those who have established companies (in oil and gas for example) risk loss of income, power, and success.

 [Reply](#)



**Scott Schwiebert** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/431009>)

Sep 7, 2022

When I read the prompt I immediately thought of the issues surrounding the emission of green house gases and their negative effect on the environment. The world is facing the prominent issues surrounding pollution due the emissions from greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels. According to NASA, the climate temperatures are rising at a rate never before seen, in the past 10,000 years. They also mentioned that carbon dioxide levels have fluctuated between 160,000,000 and 300,000,000 until 1950. Since 1950, we exponentially grown to and all time high of 420,000,000. It is clear that the modern world has had an extreme effect on carbon emissions.

QUESTION: Is there a way to combat carbon emissions without destroying the economy?

← [Reply](#)



**Ethan Howard** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/430055>)

Sep 18, 2022

This is a great question. I believe it is not only possible to not destroy the economy, but give it a boost through combatting carbon emissions. Innovations in clean energy can provide immense job opportunities and stimulate the economy. Combatting carbon emissions is not only necessary, but has immense potential to improve the economy and sustainable forms of living.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Your question is an important one and one not easily answered.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, developing the technologies of a carbon neutral future can result in many new jobs.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

A quick clarification. The units are ppm (parts per million). So when they give a number for CO2 levels at 400, that's "400 parts per million", which would be 0.0004, not 400,000,000. But I knew what you meant.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

About your question, I'm sure there are ways to combat CO2 emissions without destroying the economy. What we are doing is just changing the economy from fossil fuel based to renewable energy based.

 [Reply](#)**Rachel Zehnder** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/435150>)

Sep 7, 2022

After reading this prompt, I thought of climate change, which refers to long-term weather and temperature changes. These shifts are supposed to be natural and slowly change over time from solar cycles, and as our Earth grows older, our population increases. This is a fact that as we humans emit more greenhouse gasses and our carbon footprints increase, this directly affects the climate. However, some individuals refuse to believe we are to blame for dangerously speeding up this natural process. Some with extreme political beliefs think climate change is a "hoax" and isn't a "real" problem, but the harsh reality and evidence tell us otherwise. According to NASA, scientists' predictions of temperatures increasing have been proven through sea ice loss, sea level rise, and intense heat waves. (Not to mention our extreme fire seasons) Science shows that these effects are irreversible, and we must change how we live to combat climate change. Nowadays, people love to make everything about politics. Still, instead of shoving our political views on our environment and other people, we must put our planet first and understand that climate change is only worsening. Its effects of it are real and have significantly increased.

QUESTION- Do you think in recent years politics have greatly influenced how we think about our environment and shifted our opinions regarding climate change?

← [Reply](#)



**maddie Jacobs** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/429499>)

Sep 7, 2022

Hi Rachel! I do think politics has a huge influence on how we deal with climate change. Most of the people who think climate change is a hoax or that alternative resources would ruin our economy, are getting their information from people with political power. There is also a lot of misinformation on the internet that has a big influence too, its sometimes hard to tell what's a credible source and what's not.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I like how you draw attention to the effects on climate change on us humans. You point out it affects "sea ice loss, sea level rise, and intense heat waves. (Not to mention our extreme fire seasons) Science shows that these effects are irreversible, and we must change how we live to combat climate change." Very true.

← [Reply](#)



**James McGann** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/200445>)

Sep 11, 2022

QUESTION: Why do certain politicians and companies refuse to accept the direct relationship between burning fossil fuels, increasing CO2 levels and the rising of global temperatures?

It all boils down to money and the short term, quarterly reports and special interest. Denying the proven relationship showing since 1850 the direct correlation of burning of fossil fuels increases global temperature and the Greenhouse Effect saves money in the short term but costs us all in the long term and we are starting to really see the changes in weather in 2022.

What is interesting is I found a paper written in 2020, "CO2 and Greenhouse Gas Emissions", OurWorldindata.org. Decoupling economic growth from CO2 emissions.

This paper shows that the United States has increased its GDP by 100% since 1990 while keeping consumption based CO2 emissions to below 20% of the 1990 levels and actually decreasing the production based emissions to below the 1990 levels.

This is progress but more definitely needs to be done but it does show some hope in this time of change. There are possibilities for the future even though sometimes in the moment we seem to be in some darkness. Understanding our place in the Universe on the Earth as a community dependent on an ecosystem which is part of one living planet. Misunderstanding that we do not have infinite resources plus the combination of exponential population growth mixed with the tragedy of the commons, has brought us to this point so far.... Science can show us the way but our decisions do make a difference.

← Reply



**Bennett Johnson** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/253428>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hello, James. I definitely think that politicians and companies ignore the relationship between these factors in order to further their own agenda. For companies, I feel that they ignore these relationships because they are thinking of maximizing profit, while politicians ignore them for political gain within their own party.

← Reply



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Politics can be very powerful.

← Reply



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

That's a great response. There is hope and we should always remain optimistic.

← Reply

  
(https://**Nicholas Tait** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/429967>)

Sep 12, 2022

Some people think that the earth is flat. There are a few ways that have been used for decades to come up with a different answer to the question regarding the shape of the earth.

According to the Washington Post "because of the way gravity works, which we all encounter in our daily lives, every molecule of air would be drawn to the Earth's center of mass. Because the Earth is a globe, this means the atmosphere settles around the Earth, pulled toward Earth's center, but is stopped by the Earth's surface. The air pressure depends on height through a relationship known as hydrostatic balance. But in most places where we live, the air pressure is within tolerable limits." This is just one of many methods that can be used to prove the shape of the earth.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE EARTH BEING ROUND? WHAT CONVINCED YOU OF ITS SHAPE?

 [← Reply](#)  
(http**Jacob Jones** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/436865>)

Sep 13, 2022

the first thing that comes to mind when people say the earths flat is why then is nearly everything in the sky after a certain mass spherical looking up at the moon. sun other planets theyre all spherical why then would the earth be the only flat planet in our solar system.

QUESTION- what new scientific theory do you feel is less than likely?

 [← Reply](#)  
(http**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, Aristotle made this argument over 2000 yrs ago, and the church adopted it as a religious mantra, that the circle was a display of God's perfection. So, you would think the Flat Earther's might take note of this as well.

 [← Reply](#)





**Ashley Minnich** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/433463>)

Sep 15, 2022

Hey Nicholas! I have had some doubts about the earth being round. One thing that convinced me of its shape is a lunar eclipse. When the earth passes between the moon and sun, it projects Earth's shadow onto the moon. That shadow is indeed not a line representing that our earth is flat, but that our earth is round.

← [Reply](#)



**Jack Strand** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/231366>)

Sep 18, 2022

I have never had any doubts about the earth being flat because the "flat earth movement" didn't really gain traction until I was maybe 14-15. I had also seen other planets in telescopes and seen that they were round, so why would the earth be flat?

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

That's a great example of how we can "know" the Earth is round, simply by noting that air pressure remains about the same wherever we go. If the Earth were flat, with an edge all around, then the highest density air would be at the center, plus there would be a wind pushing outward all the time and falling off the Earth (which causes more problems than it solves since now you have to explain where all this extra air comes from to blow off the edge of the Earth).

← [Reply](#)



**Ethan Varughese** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/419046>)

Sep 13, 2022

After reading this prompt I immediately thought of the issue of wearing masks that arose from the Covid19 pandemic. Following the Covid19 Pandemic, various state-issued mask mandates forced citizens to wear a facemask in public settings such as stores and businesses. On the Center for Disease Control's website, there is a multitude of studies

proving the efficacy of wearing masks for disease prevention. According to the CDC "The community benefit of masking for SARS-CoV-2 control is due to the combination of these two effects (source control and filtration for wearer protection)" This quote is significant as it explains how and why wearing masks is beneficial to preventing the spread of Covid19. Nonetheless, there are still groups of people known as Anti-Maskers who have turned a scientific issue into a social issue. These Anti-Masker groups claim that masks infringe on their individual freedoms while providing no protection against the virus. Nonetheless, countless studies have been conducted proving these claims wrong and championing the efficacy of masks in a community setting to reduce the spread of disease.

Question: Do you believe that if there was not so much political division and polarization, would the social issue of wearing masks in public be as big of a problem?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Nice discussion about masks, and I like how you quoted the CDC to show the efficacy of wearing masks. I'm sure politics has played a big role in all of this.

← [Reply](#)



**Reiley Omdahl** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/19111>)

Sep 14, 2022

One of the many issues we have today is climate change. Climate change is the long term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. Since the 1800's human day to day activities have been the main force of climate change and is caused by heat trapping gases for example fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil. According to an article titled, *Global Warming* by National Geographic it states, "As the human population has increased, so has the volume of fossil fuels burned. Fossil fuels include coal, oil, and natural gas, and burning them causes what is known as the "greenhouse effect" in Earth's atmosphere. The greenhouse effect is when the Sun's rays penetrate the atmosphere, but when that heat is reflected off the surface cannot escape back into space. Gases produced by the burning of fossil fuels prevent the heat from leaving the atmosphere. These greenhouse gasses are carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, water vapor, methane, and nitrous oxide. The excess heat in the atmosphere has caused the

average global temperature to rise overtime, otherwise known as global warming. Global warming causes climate change, which poses a serious threat to life on earth in the forms of widespread flooding and extreme weather."

QUESTION... Do you think Earth will ever recover from global warming?

← Reply



**Natalie Leonard** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/267499>)

Sep 14, 2022

I feel really unsure about this question. I am hopeful that Earth could recover from the damage humans have caused, but I don't know how things will change without major government intervention, reform, and lifestyle changes for everyone. The reason that feels close to impossible is because of how powerless it feels to be a consumer. All of the things we know about climate change and how our cars, our food, our everything is killing our planets. But something makes me feel like the media puts consumers at the top of the blame list because it keeps the real culprits out of the spotlight. Us making subtle or even drastic changes in our lifestyles wouldn't heal the planet. the people in POWER have to change the SYSTEM. If the issue of climate change was addressed at its root (government, mass corporations, top 1%) we would have a better chance at saving our Earth, but we need to hold the right people accountable.

← Reply



**Julia Hayward** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/408984>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hey Reiley! I don't think the earth will ever recover from the immense effects of global warming, however, there are ways that we can help prevent it from happening as rapidly as it has been. There are several non-human causes for global warming, so it is essentially inevitable, but humans have sped up the progression of it significantly.

← Reply



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Humans can do much to help with global warming. Every single thing has a small impact but with many people doing many simple things, the net effect can be great.

← Reply



**Sarah Maria Koss** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/433097>)

Sep 18, 2022

In fact, I believe the earth will recover from climate change, just without us. I can well imagine that we will not manage to fight climate change in time and all the consequences will sooner or later bring us to a social collapse, war etc. Therefore we will probably destroy ourselves, but you can see often enough how fast nature can recover without human influence, see Chernobyl.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, the Earth will be fine. It doesn't care about us so much... haha. But I wouldn't be overly pessimistic. There will always be some who survive, but the loss of life, poverty, suffering, and devastation could be horrendous (for a true global disaster).

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Your question is what everyone wants to know. The Earth will certainly survive, and humans too, but the question is what will be the cost economically and environmentally, and what will the world of the future look like.

← [Reply](#)




**Natalie Leonard** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/267499>)

Sep 14, 2022

Science has made so many seemingly impossible things possible throughout human history, one being the Apollo 11 mission that took the first humans ever to the moon in 1969. This was a monumental moment in human history and it is amazing how far Science has come since. However, there are still people that deny this landing ever took place. This disbelief of such a monumental moment damages the outlook people have on Science and make them distrust it.

Although there is a video of astronauts on the moon, this doesn't convince moon landing deniers. But a fuzzy video isn't the only evidence we have of the legitimacy of the spaceflight. Apollo 11 collected 3 major rock types while on the moon; basalts, breccia, and lunar highland rocks. While rocks similar to these are found on Earth in volcanic areas such as Hawaii, there is a subtle difference in components of this rock found on the moon. the molten rock found on the moon has a much higher content of titanium than those found on Earth. These findings were a huge step for Science because this proved the moon had once been hot with molten lava over 3 billion years ago, not cold like they thought it always was. It also made a lot of headway for NASA and has made so many more space expeditions possible.

[https://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar/missions/apollo/apollo\\_11/samples/#:~:text=Apollo%2011%20mainly%20collected%20basalts,of%20the%20Apollo%2011%20mission](https://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar/missions/apollo/apollo_11/samples/#:~:text=Apollo%2011%20mainly%20collected%20basalts,of%20the%20Apollo%2011%20mission)   
([https://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar/missions/apollo/apollo\\_11/samples/#:~:text=Apollo%2011%20mainly%20collected%20basalts,of%20the%20Apollo%2011%20mission](https://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar/missions/apollo/apollo_11/samples/#:~:text=Apollo%2011%20mainly%20collected%20basalts,of%20the%20Apollo%2011%20mission))

Do you think humans will live on another planet in the next 100 years?

 [Reply](#)



**Ruby Varela Delgado** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/429963>)

Sep 18, 2022

I do not think that humans will live on another planet in the next 100 years. But I do think it could be possible in maybe 300-400 years. There is still so much we don't know about space and what the long term effects will be on our bodies on planets with a different gravitational force.

 [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

When we start thinking of really long periods of time, I think humans will eventually venture out into space. It seems to be a human trait. We've done so with every land on Earth, and suffered hardships to get there, so I don't see why in hundreds or thousands of years, we wouldn't do it with planets.

 [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Very good example about the rocks on the moon and how they are different. There are various ways that you can tell these rocks are extra terrestrial (not from Earth). Composition, radioactivity, and even certain types of minerals not normally found on Earth. These are clearly rocks from the moon and it would have been impossible to fake it.

[← Reply](#)

○

**Alyssa Rockwood** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/369117>)

Sep 15, 2022

⋮

My first thought when reading the prompt was climate change, which it seems that many people also had. Another topic that I thought of was vaccines.

There are many people who continue to deny that vaccines (and masks) are helping with the coronavirus epidemic, and with all other diseases too. Many people have become anti-vax and haven't been giving their children the required shots that they need despite the science showing that they do indeed work.

One thing that anti-vaxxers don't like about vaccines is the risk that vaccines will inject harmful toxins into your body like formaldehyde, mercury and aluminum which can be found in vaccines. Although these chemicals are toxic to the human body, they are only toxic in certain levels. Only trace amounts of these chemicals are used in FDA approved vaccines. As found by the FDA and CDC, Formaldehyde is produced in our own body at higher rates. There is no scientific evidence that the low levels of formaldehyde, mercury or aluminum in vaccines can be harmful. Another reason people don't want their kids vaccinated is because they believe that having natural immunity is far better than getting a vaccine. Although natural immunity, catching the disease and getting sick, can be more beneficial in some cases, there are far more dangers than benefits to using this approach. A third and final reason why parents do not want to get their kids vaccinated is because they believe that it is not needed due to the low infection rates in the USA. This can be easily proven false because if too many people do not vaccinate, they will be opening themselves up to opportunities for virus's to establish themselves and spread.

QUESTION: Do you think there are any good reasons for not getting your child vaccinated other than religious purposes?

Cites:

<https://www.publichealth.org/public-awareness/understanding-vaccines/vaccine-myths-debunked/> <https://www.publichealth.org/public-awareness/understanding-vaccines/vaccine->

[myths-debunked/](#)

Edited by [Alyssa Rockwood \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/369117\)](#) on Sep 15 at 5:15pm

← [Reply](#)



[Hanna Crawford \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/409544\)](#)

Sep 17, 2022

Personally, I do not think there are any good reasons for not getting your child vaccinated other than religious purposes. I understand that some people believe they leave traces of chemicals in your body and people don't know exactly what they are putting into their child's body, but this can put them at greater risk if they are exposed to viruses at young ages. As children, they do not have an immune system so these vaccines give them a low dose so they are able to fight off viruses when they are exposed.

← [Reply](#)



[Erin O'Connor \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247\)](#)

Oct 26, 2022

About getting your kids vaccinated, yes, it can be important and life saving for the child. You only have to go back about 100 yrs to see the devastation on children due to disease, much of which has been eradicated by vaccines. Polio is a good example. Even if you watch the famous Xmas story the Scrooge, "Little Timmy" has polio. Many children died or were crippled for life due to polio. Now it's unheard of that a child in a developed nation has polio. That's all due to vaccines.

← [Reply](#)



[Erin O'Connor \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247\)](#)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, Global Warming and Anti-Vax are two big conspiracy theories, but I like how you chose to read and respond to yet a third, the threat due to lack of potable water worldwide.

← [Reply](#)



[Ashley Minnich \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/433463\)](#)

Sep 15, 2022

The first issue I thought of was the conspiracy that getting Covid-19 vaccine would affect a women's fertility. Social media has caused this false report to surface and spread throughout the world. This false report said "Getting the Covid-19 vaccine would cause a woman's body to fight this difference spike protein and affect her fertility." There are still woman afraid to get the vaccine because they don't want to decrease their chances of getting pregnant.

Getting covid can have a serious impact on pregnant woman, but getting the covid 19 vaccine, and actually getting covid are two different things. John Hopkins University states that, "During the Pfizer vaccine tests, 23 woman volunteers involved in the study became pregnant, and the only one who suffered a pregnancy loss had not received the actual vaccine." The covid 19 vaccine does not affect a woman's fertility, it actually teaches the body's immune system to fight the virus.

QUESTION: Can you explain why woman are still afraid to get the Covid-19 vaccine?

← [Reply](#)



**Theresa English** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/405258>)

Sep 16, 2022

I think women could still be afraid to get the COVID-19 vaccine because although things such as this can be disproven, social media plays a big part in the effect on people's minds these days. Even if something is definitely not true based on real, hard facts and social media claims something else, it is really hard to know what to believe. There is so much false information out there that some people may simply say it is better to be safe than sorry, and that the risk of getting the COVID-19 vaccine is not worth it.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Very true. Social media has a huge impact on society and with shaping people's opinions on things. That is why we need responsible stewardship of social media, and also the population at large needs to be well educated enough to be able to critically evaluate absurd or false claims and judge them as such.

← [Reply](#)



**Alexandra Wallerman (She/Her)** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/434265>)

Sep 18, 2022



I think that the biggest factor why women are still afraid to take the vaccine is because it is very new, we do not exactly know all of the side effects yet, especially not all the long term side effects, there can be side effects arising in a few years after having the vaccine, we don't know yet and I think this plays a big part. We have not yet discovered that it would be difficult to get pregnant when have received the vaccine but in long term thinking, it might, we haven't been there yet so we can't possibly know.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

The issue of women being afraid to take the vaccine is a very serious issue since women are often care givers and if they are not protected, those they care for (kids and/or older people) are in greater danger of infection.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Very good example of how social media panics can cause people to place themselves in more danger despite no evidence to support the misleading accusations.

← [Reply](#)




**Theresa English** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/405258>)

Sep 16, 2022

The major issue that I chose where the science is very clear, but certain political and ideological groups may be denying the hard, scientific evidence of it is that the Earth is flat. These people that claim the Earth is flat call themselves "The Flat Earth Society".

This belief is obviously not true due to many various reasons, with the main one being that there are "countless photographs, videos, and imagery from astronauts and from the International Space Station that is enough evidence to show that the Earth is actually round" (OSU.EDU). If that is not enough to prove that the Earth is not flat but round then other examples include the curved shadow of lunar eclipses, the changing altitude of the North Star in the sky, and ships going over the horizon. All of these ideas were noticed by the philosopher Aristotle, who challenged the primary belief that the Earth was flat. To play the devil's

advocate, The Flat Earth Society believes that the pictures are faked by the government and is not even considered real evidence in their eyes. They constantly are looking for things that fuel their belief as opposed to facing the true facts that have been established.

Reference: [The Flat Earth Theory | The Psychology of Extraordinary Beliefs \(osu.edu\)](https://u.osu.edu/vanzandt/2019/04/03/the-flat-earth-theory/)   
(<https://u.osu.edu/vanzandt/2019/04/03/the-flat-earth-theory/>)

QUESTION: If you came across someone who believed that the Earth was flat, how would you argue against their claim?

 [Reply](#)



**Rachel Hensley** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/203163>)

Sep 16, 2022



I would say I would be generous to their argument because in philosophy we learn that no debate should be about winning an argument but rather enlightening the best answer between one another. This said I would start with where the textbook started with me and explain that ships and the moons shadow would show other wise and if they are not open to science and are proven to have a closed mind to the topic I wouldn't stress myself further because either way neither of us will probably ever be astronauts who can go to space and see the globe and our understanding wouldn't have any effect on the true of the answer so if one wishes to live with that belief I wouldn't feel it is my job to correct them.

 [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022



You are right in that for someone who is truly committed to conspiracy theories, or pseudo science, there is not much you can say to change their mind. However, there are often people on the edge, in between, and they may really appreciate your grounded perspective, and thoughtful, insightful, and educated views on these topics. Well done.

 [Reply](#)



**Dana Mirghani** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/436152>)

Sep 16, 2022



Hey Theresa,

I think the best argument is a lunar eclipse. It is one thing that proves that the Earth is round. It is basically when the Earth passes between the moon and sun and projects Earth's shadow onto the moon. That shadow is curved—like a part of a circle, which represents that the Earth is round.



 [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022



Well thought out comments about the flat earth issue. Nicely done.

 [Reply](#)



**Rachel Hensley** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/203163>)

Sep 16, 2022



One issue I think is very prevalent in today's generation and one that will be to come is the issue of astrology and the behaviors people invoke in their daily life based off pseudo science.

One thing that I have learned in astronomy that has absolutely blown my mind is that because of the precession of the Earth's axis the constellation dates no longer accurately describe the position of the sun to the constellation it was in during one's birthday. The Earth's axis shifts like a top slowly over the course of 26,000 years, so slowly that many don't take into account the shift and effects this has upon where we see the sun and what constellations it moves through during what time of year. In one generation there wouldn't be a big shift but because astrology has been around long enough there has been a change in the pointed direction of our Earth's axis so now zodiacs have actually been set back 1 1/2 months; making zodiac predictions incorrect due to their estimated times being different now. Considering this is a pseudo science it's hard to look past the effects zodiacs have on today's society not only in the west but it is also extremely prevalent in eastern philosophy and can have effects as drastic as determining who you are suited to marry. This is dangerous to communities who make presumptions based upon these astrological themes that are easier shown to be out of sort with what is understood of them by the mass public.

## DO YOU THINK THERE IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL PLACEBO THAT DOES CORRELATE WITH ZODIACS DESPITE HAVING NO ACTUAL ASTROLOGICAL EFFECT?

← [Reply](#)



**Eliot Hutchinson** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/407632>)

Sep 18, 2022

I think there is a placebo effect on zodiac signs to an extent. I think the idea of astrological signs have been turned into a greatly exaggerated thing. For example, like the idea of someone thinking they don't get along with cancers because they read that their signs aren't compatible. There are many examples of these. But I think a lot of the horoscopes and things are hid sight bias. The idea of reading something vague about your horoscope then thinking how your life relates to it even if it's a far reach.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, the placebo effect in astrology is most certainly a factor. If you are told you don't get along with a particular zodiac sign, then whenever you meet with these people, you might not be very friendly yourself, causing them to not be friendly to you,.. and therefor fulfilling your expectations.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, the processional shift of the zodiac constellations as they match up with astrological signs is often a surprise to many. This is why it's important to take an interest and be educated in the basics of many things, so you can critically evaluate what others have to say. If someone just walked up to you and said you have to jump off a cliff because astrology said you should and that you will be ok, and if you blindly believed it, things might not go so well for you. So, being able to critically evaluate the credibility in arguments, ideas, suggestions, or whatever can be an important life skill, and having the basic knowledge to build on, can make all the difference. Great to see you so engaged

and interested in astronomy (and I'm sure you are as interested in everything else). Your life will be richer and more interesting for it.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, the placebo effect in astrology is most certainly a factor. If you are told you don't get along with a particular zodiac sign, then whenever you meet with these people, you might not be very friendly yourself, causing them to not be friendly to you,.. and therefor fulfilling your expectations.

← [Reply](#)



**Dana Mirghani** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/436152>)

Sep 16, 2022

The first thing that came to my mind after reading this prompt is the debate on vaccines. After Covid-19 hit, many believed the vaccine was a symbol of hope of returning to some degree of normalcy and staying protected from the disease. However, many people also believed the vaccine was harmful. They believed that the efficiency and safety of the COVID-19 vaccination cannot be trusted since researchers rushed the creation of it. Many conspiracy theories came out after that and caused many people to not take the vaccine, which is proven to have helped reduce covid cases.

Firstly, government investments in vaccine development and/or upfront payment for vaccinations meant that vaccine initiatives had access to lots of funding which expedited the creation of it. Another thing is that in order for Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna to begin the vaccine development process early in the pandemic, the firms used scientific methods that have been in development for years to manufacture the COVID-19 vaccines. According to John Hopkins Medicine Inst., "The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects, but the vast majority are very short term —not serious or dangerous. The vaccine developers report that some people experience pain where they were injected; body aches; headaches or fever, lasting for a day or two. These are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate your immune system." This shows clearly that the vaccine is not dangerous and the side effects are merely signs that your body is working its immune system.

QUESTION: Do you think the Covid-19 vaccine was a government hoax? Why or why not?

Edited by **Dana Mirghani** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/436152>) on Sep 16 at 10:58pm

 [Reply](#)**Diana Carey** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/407594>)

Sep 17, 2022

Hi Dana,

To answer your question no, I do not think that the covid-19 vaccine was a hoax because I do believe that the government wanted to help to solve the issue and wanted a positive change from it. But, with that being said, I don't think it made a huge difference.

Unfortunately, even with the vaccine out our lives were all still being put on hold, and we were still not living as we used to. People all over the world still got covid if they got the vaccine and overall, it did keep people put of the hospital, but I just don't think it was super effective at doing what it was made to do.

 [Reply](#)**Ashley Martinez** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/428385>)

Sep 17, 2022

I do not believe Covid-19 was a government hoax because I believe by now it would not be a problem. To this day, some places still require masks, i think if it was a hoax it wouldn't be necessary anymore.

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022


Yes. There was more funding and thus the process of vaccine development was more about that, and not about "rushing" anything. All the required testing had to be completed.

 [Reply](#)**Hanna Crawford** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/409544>)

Sep 16, 2022

A major issue of today in which the science is very clear, but certain political and ideological groups are denying the hard, scientific evidence is that the Earth is flat. Even as the years move on and evidence progresses, there are still people who adamantly believe the Earth is flat.

In an article labeled *The Science Behind Why the Earth Isn't Flat*, Dan Falk writes that, "John Glenn and Neil Armstrong had been to space and verified that the Earth is round". These are reputable people who have seen with their own eyes that Earth is not flat and have immense training in this field. These astronauts are sent to space to figure out things like this topic and find out the truth. Falk also writes "When the Sun is rising in, say, Moscow, it's setting in Los Angeles; when it's the middle of the night in New Delhi, the Sun is shining high in the sky in Chicago". This is solid evidence for how the Earth is round because if the Earth was flat, it would be day time everywhere at once, and nighttime everywhere at once. However, everyone is aware that there are different time zones all across the world, changing the time of day in different places.

Article: <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/546834/science-behind-why-earth-not-flat>   
[\(https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/546834/science-behind-why-earth-not-flat\)](https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/546834/science-behind-why-earth-not-flat)

QUESTION: If you were a flat Earther, what would be your best argument for why the Earth is flat?

 [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, the "Flat Earth" believers are hard to believe, since there are so many ways in our modern world to show, verify, and confirm that the Earth is round. Every time you make an international call and the person you are talking to is in a different time zone, is essentially proof that the Earth is round.

 [Reply](#)



**Diana Carey** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/407594>)

Sep 17, 2022

Something that comes to mind when I think about major issues related to science is how people think vaccines might be what causes autism. Parents all over the world have made claims to the fact that they believe vaccinating kids is what

creates autism. But, this is something that has been proven to be false by multiple scientific studies. I found that the CDC says "studies have shown that there is no link between receiving vaccines and developing ASD." ASD stands for autism spectrum disorder. The CDC also did studies on specific ingredients in vaccines to try and get a closer look at the issue. They did a study on one of the ingredients used in vaccines called thimerosal, and found that it is not something that causes autism. The CDC also stated that "no links have been found between any vaccine ingredients and ASD." So, science has proved that this idea is just a myth and something parents and or anti-vaxers have created all on their own. This claim has no evidence to back it up so therefore it is really just a conspiracy theory.

**[Autism and Vaccines | Vaccine Safety | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html)** 

(<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html>)

QUESTION: Do you think that people/parents are right for questioning vaccines to cause their kids having autism?

 Reply



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022


Excellent question and discussion. I think it's always good for parents to be involved with their kids health and safety, but also it is therefore an important parental responsibility to be educated and well informed about dangers that our kids face. Unfortunately, conspiracy theories can lead to parents disregarding warnings and not taking important precautions to protect their children.

 Reply



**Ashley Martinez** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/428385>)

Sep 17, 2022

A major issue that people choose to deny or ignore, you can say, is that using masks during quarantine or the pandemic s actually very important for our safety. During quarantine or the peak of the pandemic, and still to this day, people choose to deny or actually just not believe that masks help the risk of getting covid. According to the site, <https://www.pnas.org>, 



(<https://www.pnas.org%2C/>) scientists recently discovered that masks are 79% effective, and also have a risk reduction of 70%.

← [Reply](#)



**Ashley Martinez** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/428385>)

Sep 17, 2022

Question: Do you believe masks were helpful during quarantine or just made the matter worse?

← [Reply](#)



**Kaio Tuttle** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/407474>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hi Ashley, I do not think masks helped at all. For example, say you go to the grocery store and you touch something while having covid, you are spreading the virus without using a mask. This one example for me proves that masks weren't the solution to slowing down a virus.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I can see how many are frustrated with masks, since even though many people have been wearing them, people still get sick. But it's a matter of statistics, ratios, and probabilities. Studies show that masks are effective at "reducing" the spread of Covid. It's not guaranteed, and young people who are out and about the most, usually get Covid eventually. But for older people, reducing the spread can make the difference between life and death, and since they are not out as much, many have never gotten Covid, and perhaps that's partly thanks to masks.

← [Reply](#)



**Isaac Rea** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/361729>)

Sep 19, 2022

Hi Ashley, I defiantly think that the use of masks during the pandemic was helpful. The use of masks didn't stop the virus completely, but they definitely helped slow the spread of the virus.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Masks have been shown to be the most effective way to protect people for the spread of contagions. This is not a new discovery. Doctors have used masks in hospitals since the discovery of the germ theory to reduce the spread of disease, and survival rates have dramatically increased. You could get a simple cold in the ol days and die. Now you are very unlikely to die from a simple cold.

← [Reply](#)



**Kaio Tuttle** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/407474>)

Sep 18, 2022

The first thing that came to mind was global warming, which is caused by us humans emitting to much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists have shown through data that the Earths temperature has risen throughout the years, and there needs to be a stop to this. This is a real issue that needs to be addressed, and if it continues to be ignored we could be in some real trouble. My question is... "How much longer can we go if Global warming continues to rise and we do not take action on it."

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, for political reasons, global warming is not being properly dealt with. Eventually, it will be too hard to ignore. The effects will be apparent to all.

← [Reply](#)



**Jack Strand** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/231366>)

Sep 18, 2022

A. There is a group of people who believe that Earth is not a sphere but instead a flat surface floating in space.

B. I read an article by Magnify Mind which discusses how the greek philosopher Pythagorus realized that the earth was round because during a lunar eclipse the shadow cast on the moon by Earth was round no matter where on earth was facing the moon.

DO YOU BELIVE THAT PEOPLE WHO BELIVE THE EARTH IS FLAT CAN BE REASONED WITH, OR ARE THEY TOO DELUSIONAL TO EVER LEARN THE TRUTH?

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I think most people realize the Earth is round and are not giving the flat earth idea much credence. But they think it's fun, and it gets attention, so people keep talking about it.

← [Reply](#)




**Ruby Varela Delgado** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/429963>)

Sep 18, 2022

An issue we have today is that people still believe that the earth is flat.

If you were to observe a lunar eclipse you would notice that the shadow on the moon is circular. As time goes by during the lunar eclipse you can see a small curved shadow on the moon and as more time passes by it eventually covers the entire moon. "The only object that casts a circular shadow no matter how you shine a light across it is a sphere." - [unlv.edu](https://www.unlv.edu/news/release/round-earth-clues-how-science-proves-our-home-globe) (<https://www.unlv.edu/news/release/round-earth-clues-how-science-proves-our-home-globe>) This is real evidence that anyone can see and test with their own eyes. If the earth was truly flat, we would still be able to see ships that go past our current horizon considering we can see stars that are light years away.

<https://www.unlv.edu/news/release/round-earth-clues-how-science-proves-our-home-globe>  (<https://www.unlv.edu/news/release/round-earth-clues-how-science-proves-our-home-globe>)

IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU TO PROVE OR CONVINCE THEM THAT THE EARTH IS FLAT, HOW WOULD YOU DO IT.

Edited by [Ruby Varela Delgado \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/429963\)](https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/429963) on Sep 18 at 6:38pm

 [Reply](#)



[Caleb Yoslov \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/413807\)](https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/413807)

Sep 18, 2022

I think that if they still believe the earth is flat in today's modern world, that they have mental issues and you will not be able to convince them!

 [Reply](#)



[Erin O'Connor \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247\)](https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247)

Oct 26, 2022

Ahhh. In regard to the flat earther's, you pretty much summed it up.

 [Reply](#)



[Erin O'Connor \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247\)](https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, there are many ways that one can show the Earth is round. But not everyone wants to hear that it is. It's much more fun to say it's flat (but I think even some of these people know it's round, but just do it for fun). The problem with that is it confuses other people.

 [Reply](#)



[David Aguirre \(https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/28575\)](https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/28575)

Sep 18, 2022

When I read this prompt I didn't want to create too big of an argument however I believe the topic of global warming is so divided yet very much backed by science that pollutants in the air

affects the earth's atmosphere making it warmer. Which gives it the name global warming as well as climate change with the change of the temperatures. According to NASA we've been keeping track of global warming since the pre industrial era around 1850-1900 and it's been rising from our use of fossil fuel burning that's been released into the ozone.

(<https://climate.nasa.gov/global-warming-vs-climate-change/> ↗)

(<https://climate.nasa.gov/global-warming-vs-climate-change/>.) According to national geographic when "the Sun's rays penetrate the atmosphere, but when that heat is reflected off the surface cannot escape back into space," and then with the mix of green house gases it's unable to leave earth and heats up our planet.

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/global-warming> ↗

(<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/global-warming>.)

Question: Why do some people not believe in global warming when it also leads to another problem we have called climate change?

↩ [Reply](#)

(http

**Magdalena Del Rio** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/403502>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hey David! I believe that many people don't want to believe global warming is real because this will implicate getting rid of many of the commodities we have in the civilized world we live in. Also, people don't want to live feeling guilty about it so they just prefer to ignore it than face this problem.

↩ [Reply](#)

(http

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I like your comment about how people don't believe in global warming because it will either impinge on their life style, or make them feel guilty.

↩ [Reply](#)

(http

**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

It's amazing how far back we have been monitoring global warming. Of course, in recent times, we use more advanced technologies to do so, but we have been aware and concerned of the effects of pollution since the advent of the industrial revolution.

[← Reply](#)**Julia Hayward** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/408984>)

Sep 18, 2022

I think a huge controversy, as well as a major issue that is relevant today is that of climate change. The issue is that there is a decent divide between people about climate change and if humans play a part in it or not. An article titled "The Politics of Climate" by Pew Research Center says "the biggest gaps on climate policy and climate science are between those at the ends of the political spectrum". The same article also states, "The stakes in climate debates seem particularly high to liberal Democrats because they are especially likely to believe that climate change will bring harms to the environment". This article essentially proves that democrats are more likely to believe in climate change and that it has extreme effects, whereas the amount of republicans who believe the same is significantly lower. According to The Nature Conservancy and an article titled "Climate Change FAQs", it states, "the rises in temperature and carbon dioxide levels we've seen in the past century are extreme and are accelerating. The rate of carbon emissions are the highest they've been in 66 million years and the amount of warming in the coming decades is expected to be 250 times greater than the average warming during the past century". This is caused by mainly greenhouse gas emissions from human activity and has effects on rising sea levels, rising temperature and severe weather.

Question: Do you believe in climate change and what is your political party? (the second part does not need to be answered if you feel uncomfortable doing so).

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Very interesting article that you shared with us about climate change and the correlation with political affiliation. This is where we as humans need to rise above politics to become educated on global issues and threats and vote to do the right thing (regardless of political affiliation).

[← Reply](#)**Alexandra Wallerman (She/Her)** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/434265>)

Sep 18, 2022

The first thing that came to mind when thinking of a major issue of today was the covid-19 pandemic and how a lot of people think that the coronavirus was made in a lab and that this whole pandemic was the government wanting to decrease the population because of the increased world population.

According to an article written in 2020 called "A geospatial infodemic: Mapping Twitter conspiracy theories of COVID-19" published on Sage journals, nearly one third of americans believe in some theory that covid 19 is created as a bioweapon to cull populations. This is very interesting because the reason behind covid 19 is that it is caused from a disease outbreak from bats, at least that is what media says is the cause. I do not think we can be entirely sure of what's the source of cause because the government is good at making sure that we only know what they want us to know, so if there is another reason to the covid 19 outbreak then it is most likely hidden from society. A lot of people believe that covid 19 is a reason to thin out the population because of our over populated earth and that the information about the bats are just a cover up from what really is happening. I think that conspiracy theories is based on something, so it is not only just thoughts, we get information from somewhere and later creates thoughts and opinions about a certain topic. I do not really know where I stand in this conspiracy theory, the world is over populated so it might be a way to decrease that but it can also be an accident.

QUESTION: Do you believe that covid 19 is an accident or a planned action from the government to decrease the population, and why?

↳ [Reply](#)



**Julian Rivera** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/47741>)

Sep 18, 2022

1. Governments have and can create bio weapons far more destructive and potent than Covid for the purpose of population control in the event of a crisis, also simply creating a war to create nationalism and spur the economy is a more practical way than risking a disease to control the population.
2. If we assume it was released on purpose this would assume the CCP of China would be responsible or the PLA, both of which is not a good assumption seeing as China's own struggle with covid has caused internal problems over there and never made invading Taiwan more of an option. There is evidence that China knew about the outbreak earlier than they claim and let the virus escape internationally after stocking PPE but this seems more like them taking a moment of opportunity as the virus with how novel it is would have gotten out one day or another.

3. There has been since the 80's warnings of human encroachment combined with our interconnected economy being the perfect breeding ground for this kind of outcome. In fact covid is a variant of a previous outbreak known as Sars in 2003 which rocked southeast asia. As I said with point one if covid was meant to create a situation favoring government control the practicality of choosing this virus is very questionable and then if we apply Ockham's razor to the clear breeding ground for a natural global outbreak we can see that this was a more likely than not inevitable situation.

It is important to analyze the ways our government responded on the other and how it was used to remove freedoms even in the face of good intention. I think the better lesson to learn from covid is how our free modern world is built and supported by fragile institutions and networks that we must understand to better be equipped for when this happens in the future. And yes this will happen again, with human population projections we may see another pandemic in our life times, remember it had only been 102 years since the great flu pandemic.

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Very thoughtful discussion, and very well researched response to someone else's question. I think you make a valid point with your concern that humans have not "matured" or "evolved" fast enough to keep pace to responsibly deal with the power of misinformation in social media networks.

[← Reply](#)



**Chase Wells** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/414288>)

Sep 18, 2022

I think that covid 19 is a sickness and the government is doing the most they can to keep everybody as safe as possible.

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

That's a positive and refreshing take on things, that the "government is doing the best it can to keep us safe". That doesn't mean it's doing everything right, but given the



challenges, that it's at least trying it's best. An imperfect government will do an imperfect job, but at least they are trying (imperfectly perhaps).

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Oh my... it's true that some people take a pretty dark view on the Covid situation, believing, as you say, "this whole pandemic was the government wanting to decrease the population because of the increased world population." I feel it's more just ignorance and not really understanding the science of disease and infection.

← [Reply](#)



**Magdalena Del Rio** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/403502>)

Sep 18, 2022

An issue that came to my mind after reading the prompt is how our planet is running out of potable water and people don't believe or don't act as an important issue as it is. Our planet is conformed by 70% of water but only 3% is potable for us and only 1% percent is on our reach. Every living organism in the Earth needs water to live and everytime we are running out of it more, which is a huge problem for all of us. According to World Wild Life, Many of the water systems that keep ecosystems thriving and feed a growing human population have become stressed. Rivers, lakes and aquifers are drying up or becoming too polluted to use. More than half the world's wetlands have disappeared. Agriculture consumes more water than any other source and wastes much of that through inefficiencies. Climate change is altering patterns of weather and water around the world, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. They estimate that by 2025 2/3 of the world population may face water shortages.

My question is, DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANY APPROCHABLE WAY TO POSITVELY CONTRIBUTE WITH THIS ISSUE?

← [Reply](#)



**Alyssa Rockwood** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/369117>)

Sep 18, 2022

Wow! I didn't fully know the extent of this issue and am glad that you chose to write about it for your discussion post. To answer your question, I am not too sure. I know that there are ways to turn ocean water into drinkable water, known as desalination and that they are doing this more and more around the world so I hope that that this expands and is used even more around the world so that we can all have fresh water and hopefully never end up running out

← [Reply](#)

○



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

⋮

Water is a huge issue. Many diseases, famine, and peoples of poverty stricken demographics have limited access (or no access) to healthy, clean, potable water. It's a global travesty.

← [Reply](#)



**Bennett Johnson** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/253428>)

Sep 18, 2022

⋮

a. One issue of today involving ideological groups denying scientific evidence can be seen with misconceptions about COVID vaccinations. Some groups of people claim that people do not need to be vaccinated because herd immunity is a more efficient way to stop the virus's spread.

b. First of all, a herd immunity approach based solely on people contracting COVID would involve a much larger number of people contracting and possibly dying from COVID. This is due to the fact that vaccines have been shown in many scientific studies to decrease the likelihood of contracting the illness and decreasing the severity of the virus's effect. Second, according to Johns Hopkins, the length of natural immunity that develops from contracting the virus varies greatly between individuals and often does not last as long as the protection provided by vaccines, which makes building herd immunity difficult. Lastly, the university of Maryland explains that every time someone contracts the virus it gives the virus more opportunities to replicate and possibly mutate into more dangerous or contagious variants. By decreasing the number of people that contract the virus through the use of vaccines, we lessen the opportunities for replication and mutation rather than increase them.

QUESTION: Do you believe that there's a way to prevent the spread of false narratives regarding scientific facts?

← [Reply](#)



**Phillip Ordonez** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/289135>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hello Bennett,

In regards to the question at the end of your post, I believe no. I do not believe that there is any possible way to prevent the spread of false narratives regarding scientific facts, the reason I say this is because each and everyone one of us consumes media in many different ways. This consumption of different sources of media will cause inevitable divide within our country no matter what it is regarding, even science, so in conclusion I say no unless somehow one day we as a country would only be able to get our source of information from 1 specific source.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Very good arguments against "herd immunity" as a solution for the Covid pandemic.

← [Reply](#)



**Julian Rivera** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/47741>)

Sep 18, 2022

My concern is more overall the influence that the internet and condensed/ quick information as had on the ability to prove conspiracies wrong. Today on social media we see many quick 30 second clips about this mysterious object here and that weird government inconsistency there its hard to prove wrong but more importantly it degrades the overall feeling of accuracy in proper science. Bit terms like "scientists don't know" or "experts theorize" are the most degrading use of two words to muddy what is a long processes of verification and replication. When we see lot of questioning of our world online, even if we know that questioning is done without evidence, we start to ask our own questions and get wrapped up in this culture of mistrust which adds to the problem.

Question: do you think the internet has progressed faster then human reasoning has been able to adapt to the new way of informational transfer?

← [Reply](#)



**Eliot Hutchinson** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/407632>)

Sep 18, 2022

When I first read this discussion, I immediately thought about the movie, "Don't Look up" which is a movie about a group of scientists that discovered an asteroid that is going to destroy earth. When they go to the president and she doesn't understand that intensity of the situation and doesn't take action, they decide to go to the public and try to get the word out. Everyone thinks they are crazy and don't believe it, due to political views being involved and just not wanting to believe the world is gonna end. This movie almost directly parallels with the climate crisis our world is facing. As we all know many people don't think climate change is a real thing, and there is a lot of political views and arguments involved with climate change. There is an article I read about a group of scientist, and some of them tied themselves to a Chance Bank in LA, and later got arrested for it. They did this because it is really a cry for help to be heard and seen. Big corporations like Chase banks across america and the world are sending out harmful amount of fossil fuels, to the point where these scientists are trying to take action because the future of the earth and human existence is truly at stake and no one seems to be taking action. These scientist are blown away that government officials aren't taking this more serious and if we as a country dot act soon there will be serious consequences. Many many americans take climate change as just another political view and view is as something liberals etc. are using against them ad they think it is a conspiracy theory. But the facts clearly state the earth is warming and is will be harmful to human existence. I think the fact that climate change got made into a political debate and that makes people think it is a conspiracy theory. Which I think shouldn't have happened due to the science that backs it up. But there will always be people who don't believe it, but the people who do need to take action now and somehow get others to see this issue and change.

Question: What are some ways people can get others to believe in climate change and get them to start taking action?

← [Reply](#)



**Sayfe Alzubaidee** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/431054>)

Sep 18, 2022

Hey Elliot, I think access to education and information on the topic should be widespread. Have schools present evidence of the current state of the environment to our future generations and instill a sense of urgency in them.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

The scientists in the movie can't believe that the politicians aren't taking them seriously even in the face of global catastrophe. Yes, this scenario is playing out all around us. Especially with the latest trend to not believe in science. This is a very dangerous trend.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Good question. How do we get people to believe in something true that they don't believe in. Sometimes you have to just let them make the mistake and then,... too bad. But the problem is, in some case, the consequences are too great (like the destruction of the planet). What do you do then? That is the great challenge of the 21st Century.

← [Reply](#)



**Phillip Ordonez** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/289135>)

Sep 18, 2022

The first issue that came to mind for me after reading this prompt is the topic of climate change, climate change is one of those scientifically studied topics that somehow ties into politics and none of us really know the rhyme or reason. More specifically the issue of global warming and the gases that are being emitted into the air everyday. According to the National Centers for Environmental Information, **"The global annual temperature has increased at an average rate of 0.08°C (0.14°F) per decade since 1880** and over twice that rate (+0.18°C / +0.32°F) since 1981. The 2020 Northern Hemisphere land and ocean surface temperature was the highest in the 141-year record at +1.28°C (+2.30°F) above average." The research is being done everyday and has been tracked for over a century, yet there are many speculators

out there that shoot this idea of global warming out of the air whenever the topic is brought to our attention as a country. Many believe that what we do down here on earth's surface does not have anything to do with the issue of global warming, but as scientists have done research throughout the decades we find clear cut evidence that our planet is heating up year by year. The cause of this issue is the greenhouse gases that our vehicles and work sites emit, the gases form a "blanket" and trap heat within our planet from the sun.

Question: Do you believe that the gases being emitted have a significant role in global warming? If so, does your stance correlate with the "political norm" of your party?

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

As a science educator, I can refer to the data. It is true that political affiliation correlates greatly with whether someone believes in global warming or not, but either way, the data remains the same. The data shows that there has been a significant increase in temperature over the past century and it correlates dramatically with the introduction of fossil fuel burning technologies.

← [Reply](#)



**Sabre Moore** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/49959>)

Sep 18, 2022

A few major issues come to mind when I think of hard scientific evidence and people simply denying it. The first is the clear evidence that goes back centuries on how the Earth is round but there are people who still believe that it is flat. The second that comes to mind is climate change, there are many studies on how climate change is affecting the earth and humanities future and yet there are people that simply deny its existence.

There are many many resources that explain how the earth is round, one of the resources I found is from the University of Arizona, "At a very basic level, we can see the Earth's curvature through satellites that we've launched into space. Additionally, through the use of high-powered telescopes, we've been able to examine planets both in our solar system and beyond, and all of them are spherical in shape." the article also explains in more detail on how the earth is round but anyone, and I mean even a child, could understand their very basic reasoning.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

This is a very good response and the article you reference makes it obvious and clear that the Earth is round. I think the Flat Earth hype is more of a fad than anything. I don't remember people publicly saying they thought the Earth was flat when I was a kid.

← [Reply](#)



**Chase Wells** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/414288>)

Sep 18, 2022

In the past, people believed that the earth was flat. While some still do, there is an unignorable amount of evidence that points toward our planet's spherical shape. Rick Winegard, a geologist says knowing the Earth's shape has plenty of practical applications like “mapmakers can use the knowledge that the Earth is round to create more accurate maps. And architects and engineers can use it to design buildings and bridges that can withstand high winds and earthquakes. In short, understanding the shape of the Earth is essential for both scientific and practical purposes.” There are a handful of ways to prove that the earth is round. One way to prove this is by watching a ship sail off to sea Erik Freinz says “If you can watch a ship sail off to sea, watch its mast and flag as it fades off into the distance. You will notice that it does not “fade off into the distance” at all; instead, you will see its mast and flag appear to slowly sink. The ship sailed beyond the point at which you would see it. Just to be sure, bring a pair of binoculars with you so that you can see even farther off into the distance.”

How could you prove that the earth is flat?

Frenz, Erik. 7 ways to prove the earth is round, Cell Mentor 2018

[https://crosstalk.cell.com/blog/seven-ways-to-prove-earth-is-round?hs\\_amp=true](https://crosstalk.cell.com/blog/seven-ways-to-prove-earth-is-round?hs_amp=true)

Winegard, Rick. The Shape of Earth: Who discovered that the Earth is Spherical?

Reprogle Globes 2022

<https://reproleglobes.com/blog/the-shape-of-the-earth-who-discovered-the-fact-that-the-earth-is-spherical/>

← Reply



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I like how you draw attention to the benefits for geologists, architects, and engineers, in knowing the Earth is round, so that they can make better maps and build better structures. Good point.

← Reply



**Caleb Yoslov** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/413807>)

Sep 18, 2022

One of the biggest controversies in terms of science is that people still deny the fact that climate change is occurring. The emission of carbon dioxide from human activities has been proven to cause the earth's climate to warm. This increase in temperature makes weather effects more severe, making some areas drier, and others wetter. The increase in temperature will also cause sea levels to rise through the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. 410 million people are currently living in areas under threat of destruction by estimated sea level heights in 2100, and 40% of the world is at risk of being displaced by 2030 due to drought. Yet, fueled by dirty money, there are still scientists and politicians making decisions for our country and world that do not believe in climate change.



**Question: Does carbon dioxide cause climate change?**Edited by **Caleb Yoslov** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/413807>) on Sep 18 at 10:50pm Reply**Kasey Burnham** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/404651>)

Sep 22, 2022

Hi Caleb, I think carbon dioxide furthers the damage that pollution has on climate change. Our society runs on things that are essentially killing our planet and ecosystems.

 Reply**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I like how you draw attention to the fact that global warming (better referred to as climate change), makes some areas hot and dry, but other areas cold and wet. It's still part of the same phenomenon, that of increased temperatures worldwide, providing more energy to fuel weather systems. Well done.

 Reply**Sarah Maria Koss** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/433097>)

Sep 18, 2022

When I read through the task, I had to think directly of the discussion about the vaccination against Covid, respectively about vaccination opponents in general.

The pandemic has sooner or later made us all vaccinate ourselves at best to protect ourselves and others from the covid virus. A dangerous superstition that there was poison or other harmful substances in the vaccine had reached many people and caused political turmoil. Since ultimately only vaccination can/could bring us to the end of the pandemic, many countries introduced compulsory vaccination, but a minority refused to do so. But in the end, Fake News and lack of education were responsible for this debate, because the only thing vaccination actually does is give you instructions on how to fight the virus. Somewhat scientifically explained: The COVID vaccine uses mRNA created in a laboratory to teach our

cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response inside our bodies, which produces antibodies. This largely prevents severe COVID disease progression.

Question: Do you think vaccination should be mandatory?

← Reply



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

This is a very powerful question. If only a few don't vaccinate, then the efforts of many go to waste (and with needless loss of life). But mandating also forces people to do something they think may not be right or safe. This is a tough call. In general, if you believe in science, and the development and production process in vaccines, then you should believe in vaccine safety. Some people are hypocrites. Why would they take other medications, or even vitamins, but not believe vaccines are safe? Some of these other medications are similarly produced and can have severe side effects, but people take them anyways due to the health benefits.

← Reply



**Sayfe Alzubaidee** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/431054>)

Sep 18, 2022

A.

There are certain conspiracy theorists and communities that claim that the earth is flat despite the concrete, obvious science stating otherwise. Now these communities do not have major influence on today's political climate but they very much do exist.

B.

Now it is not very hard to prove that wrong. First off, scientists have seen the actual shape of the earth through satellites that confirms the curvature of our beloved home. Second, every observable planet in the universe takes a spherical shape, so why wouldn't ours? I think a major concern that these poorly educated communities possess is how we are able to live on a sphere that's spinning and moving at insane speeds. Honestly, thinking about it without Newtonian laws of physics/gravity in mind; it kind of sounds insane. But because we humans have grown up on earth, our basic preconceived notion of the laws of the universe is a little twisted. But no the earth is not flat.

QUESTION: Can you explain why conspiracies like this still exist when there is HARD evidence completely invalidating them?

← [Reply](#)



**Paulina Lezama** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/50016>)

Sep 21, 2022

Hi I wanted to point out that I was also thinking about if the earth is flat theory.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, there are so many ways to show that the Earth is round. Nicely organized response.

← [Reply](#)



**Ethan Howard** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/430055>)

Sep 18, 2022

One major scientific topic that has become a site of controversy is the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. Despite overwhelming evidence in support of the effectiveness of vaccinations and the incredible advances that have been made in public health and safety as a result of vaccines, there are some people who continue to refute their effectiveness and even go as far as to say they lead to autism or other illnesses. The first ever vaccine to be successfully developed was the smallpox vaccine. Before its development in 1976, 7.6% of all deaths were caused by small pox (ourworldindata.org). Since the implementation of the vaccine, smallpox has been completely eradicated as a threat on a global scale. A more modern example is the covid-19 vaccine. Due to its highly politicized nature, the covid vaccine has become highly controversial, yet the results speak for themselves. According to the CDC, per a population of 100,000 people, covid rates were lowest for vaccinated people (25.0) and highest for unvaccinated (347.8). Vaccines are one of the greatest modern advancements the human race has made, and it is a shame that there is such a large group of people who refuse to believe their efficacy, and put others in danger by refusing to vaccinate themselves.

QUESTION: At what point (if there is one) does public health in an emergency overpower a person's right to make their own decisions about vaccinations?

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Yes, vaccines have saved more lives than just about anything else humans have ever done. A small correction, the smallpox vaccine was first developed in 1798, and was globally implemented resulting in the eradication of the disease by 1979. An amazing accomplishment.

 [Reply](#)**Isaac Rea** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/361729>)

Sep 19, 2022

After reading this prompt, the major issue I thought about was that people denied, ignored, and chose not to wear masks during the pandemic. During the pandemic Covid-19 cases have raised due to people do not wearing their face masks in public. Most people in our society believe that weather you wear a mask or not you will still catch Covid-19. Wearing face masks is not 100% proven that people will not get the virus or will stop the virus completely but wearing masks will defiantly help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

QUESTION: Do you think wearing masks during the Covid-19 pandemic were a big help?

 [Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Wearing masks has been shown to be one of the most effective way to mitigate the spread of the disease. The problem is that for this to work, everyone has to wear a mask, and not everyone does. One contagious person can get a lot of people sick. The masks are more about keeping you from spreading the virus to others, and does not offer much protection "from" others.

 [Reply](#)

 (https://**Isabella Vasquez** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/276003>)

Sep 19, 2022

After reading this prompt, I thought about how some people genuinely believe the earth is flat. If you think about it, it can make sense that the earth is flat. One, we cannot see the curvature of the earth in most places so it appears to be a completely flat terrain. Two, not many people physically go to space so normal civilians are left to wonder and create this idea that because they haven't seen earth from space, it must be flat. For so many reasons which have been proved by science time and time again, people still believe the earth is flat. So here are some examples on why the earth is not flat. Greek philosophers such as Aristotle, gained evidence after he traveled to Egypt and saw new constellations of stars. This means if you move around the earth you are now on the other side of the planet so you would see different stars and it would be a different time of day. The planet's gravity pulls equally from all sides. Gravity pulls from the center to the edges and this is what makes the 3 dimensional circle. During a lunar eclipse, the Earth is between the sun and the moon, we can see the shadow of the Earth on the moon. When the shadow moves across the moon it is visibly round. The conclusion to this is that it suggests the earth is a sphere. If you go to the opposite side of the earth, the opposite time of day will be in the sky (if it is sunny in california, it will be night time in the opposite side of the earth which would be located somewhere in the indian ocean.)

QUESTION: Do you think that free education around the world would lead to less flat earth believers?

 Reply (http**Erica Lam** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/432445>)

Sep 19, 2022

Hey Isabella,

I definitely think free education around the world would lead to less flat earthers. Parental guidance and beliefs have a large impact on ours but with the help of science and facts children could grow away from these false beliefs and hopefully pass on their education.

 Reply (http**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I like how you itemize the reasons why people might think the Earth is flat. Then you point out the reasons how you can tell it isn't. That was a very effective approach. Well done.

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

I like your question. Education is the key to an informed citizenry. Not that we can educate everyone, or that everyone should think and feel the same about issues, but at least they have the information, the knowledge, the basics. Then they can synthesize what they want from that, but it needs to be accurate.

[← Reply](#)**Erica Lam** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/432445>)

Sep 19, 2022

I think many people thought of this when they first read the prompt but I chose the covid-19 pandemic for my issue. During the pandemic many groups had different opinions behind the truth of covid-19 and its vaccine. The coronavirus took over our lives a few years ago, and wiped out over one million US citizens alone. We were quickly pushed into quarantine, having us go into online learning, social distancing, and much more. There were many theories that go against the truth of the coronavirus. One of the beliefs was that the vaccine had microchips in them made by the government. The covid vaccine was designed by the FDA which is highly regulated there is no possible reason for the government to have to microchip everyone. The vaccine is made up of all normal ingredients such as mRNA, fat, salt, sugar and more. Another theory/substitution about the vaccine was how effective and safe it could be based on how quickly they made it. Based on the life threatening side effects from covid the FDA had to move very quickly to send this vaccine out. The vaccines were made from a method that has been used previously and China sent out genetic information they had about covid-19 so they could figure it out pretty quickly. The vaccine went through every step necessary to pass the inspection and is 95% effective. There are thousands of theories against Covid-19 but with science you can uncover the truth and understand the threats.

QUESTION: What would you say if someone told you they don't believe the vaccine is safe?

[← Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

The Covid vaccine issue is the issue of the times. All of you had to "live" this and so the lessons are strong. People have varied information due to politicization of the science. All I can tell you is that vaccines have saved more people's lives than just about anything else science has ever done.

← [Reply](#)



**Paulina Lezama** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/50016>)

Sep 21, 2022

For the major issue that I picked I decided to do the would be the biodynamic agriculture. Although this is not a political issue this issue stood out to me because they are using many chemicals that allow the fruits to only grow larger and last and possibly look better.

← [Reply](#)



**Paulina Lezama** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/50016>)

Sep 22, 2022

QUESTION: How can we tell when a fruit is genetically modified ?

← [Reply](#)



**Meadow Milligan** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/370474>)

Sep 23, 2022

Interestingly, if you read the label or sticker on fruits you buy at the grocery store, the number will indicate how it was grown. If it has a five-digit number that begins with an 8 it was genetically modified. If it's a five-digit number that begins with a 9, it is organic. And if it has a four-digit number it was conventionally grown.

Source: <https://graftedgrowers.com/how-to-spot-gmo-vegetables-and-fruits-vs-non-gmo/#:~:text=4%2Ddigit%20number%20means%3A%20food,8%3A%20produce%20is%20genetically%20modified> → (<https://graftedgrowers.com/how-to-spot-gmo-vegetables-and-fruits-vs-non-gmo/#:~:text=4%2Ddigit%20number%20means%3A%20food,8%3A%20produce%20is%20genetically%20modified>)

[gmo/#:~:text=4%2Ddigit%20number%20means%3A%20food,8%3A%20produce%20is%20genetically%20modified\)](#)

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

Interesting. I didn't know about the label number being so revealing as to origin and method of growth.

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

This can fall under the category of "bio ethics". The concern is that genetically modified plants can out compete native plants and lead to disruption of the food chain or other unintended consequences.

← [Reply](#)



**Kasey Burnham** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/404651>)

Sep 22, 2022

When I read this prompt I immediately thought of current political climate and it's effects on our world's climate. We live in a world that is evolving at a pace that has never been seen before, and with that comes a price that our ecosystems pay. One of the largest issues that continues to surface in modern politics and media news is global warming. Generating power, manufacturing goods, and cutting down forests are three of the main contributors to climate change which impacts global warming. Those three contributors are massively important to our species and society, resulting in the question of...

Are humans actually "progressing" if we are slowly killing and polluting our planet and atmosphere?

← [Reply](#)



**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022


I love your question about if we are "progressing" or not. Well done.

[← Reply](#)**Meadow Milligan** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/370474>)

Sep 23, 2022

One of the things that came to mind when reading this prompt is the world's obsession with certain health fads, for example people who buy things simply because they have the "organic" label. Now this isn't necessarily a conspiracy theory but the misconception seems very common that things are automatically healthy because they have organic ingredients.

Now organic means that the ingredients were grown without any pesticides or genetic engineering. While this is nice and people want to automatically believe that organic is better, they tend to disregard all other nutritional facts about what they're consuming such as the sugar and fat contents. For example, a box of cookies that says "organic" is more likely to be bought even though it has the exact same nutritional facts as a normal box and likely still has unhealthy colors and preservatives added to the cookies even though their source is "organic". My source for my information is both 7th grade health class which I can't really cite, and this website which sums up my point

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2012/09/04/160395259/why-organic-food-may-not-be-healthier-for-you>  (<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2012/09/04/160395259/why-organic-food-may-not-be-healthier-for-you>)

QUESTION: Why do you think we as humans tend to blindly trust labels?

[← Reply](#)**Erin O'Connor** (<https://canvas.sbccc.edu/courses/49723/users/24247>)

Oct 26, 2022

That's a very good point. In fact, for some types of supplements, it can be very much a conspiracy pseudo science type of thing. Many pyramid scheme enterprises involve supplements also.

[← Reply](#)