

# English 2010:

## Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode

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### 45 General Education Students:

- Read Al Gore's "The Turning Point" (2015)
- Read Bill McKibben's "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math" (2015)
- Read Jeff Goodell's "The Pentagon and Climate Change" (2016)
- Watch Leonardo DiCaprio's *Before the Flood* (2016)

In this course, students learn how to read and analyze texts for rhetorical strategies, do research in the library, learn the classical principles of argument, and write essays that make a central claim using research and evidence to support their perspective. The focus of the course is to teach students how to engage in civic discourse about issues of our time. I choose four controversial topics to explore as a class, such as raising the minimum wage or paying student athletes. This year I included a section about Climate Change. Students also write longer essays about topics of their choice and do a presentation for the rest of the class. Issues of environmentalism and sustainability are encouraged for individual projects.



### Assignments and Activities:

- ✓ One class session is devoted to discussing and analyzing each article for content and argumentative strategies.
- ✓ Students write responses to discussion questions about the article.
- ✓ Students write a 500-word editorial in response to the question: What should we do about climate change?
- ✓ Students watch *Before the Flood* as a class with discussion and response after viewing the film.
- ✓ A total of three weeks is devoted to learning about and discussing climate change.