



Natural Resources Shaping Arguments Media List

The debatable issues for this project are:

Is our world is facing a severe shortage of food?

Is our world is facing a severe shortage of fresh water?

Is our world is facing a severe shortage of energy?

Food Shortage

Background/Both Sides

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbfvTzIWolQ>

[Video – 25 mins] An Al Jazeera report on the current risk of famine in east Africa that is threatening the lives of 20 million people, including 400,000 children in Somalia. Experts discuss the various causes, which include natural causes of a food shortage (climate change, drought) but also political causes (corruption, incompetence, the rise of terrorist organization Boko Haram) and economic causes (widespread poverty and economic inequality in Africa).

Affirmative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLfZZmTWEp8>

[Video – 5 mins] The World Food Program reports in 2012 that the world faces an unprecedented era of food shortages, brought on in part by the development of Asian countries into first-world countries, increasing the number of middle class persons consuming much more food. Another factor is the growth of bio-fuels, using agriculture for energy instead of food.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IgAe2bdoAc>

[Video – 44 mins, but you can show the first 5 – 10 mins to get to most of the arguments] A 2014 CBC documentary entitled, “The Future of the Global Food Supply at Risk.” The documentary takes a very alarmed look at the precariousness of our current global food supply.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/foodsecurity/overview#1>

According to the World Bank, one third of all child deaths around the world occur due to malnutrition. That is today. By 2050, the world is going to have to somehow produce 50% more food than it currently does, to feed the 9 billion people that will inhabit the globe.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3373018/The-world-faces-widespread-food-shortages-global-warming-Crops-scarce-droughts-ravage-Africa-Asia.html>

Daily Mail (December 24, 2015) article that reports on a UN study concluding that climate change has made drastic food shortages in certain areas of the globe three times more likely in coming years. Climate change is creating weather extremes that are disrupting food production cycles, and millions of people are at risk of starvation as a result.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/general-mills-warns-climate-change-will-lead-to-global-food-shortages_us_55e45e5ce4b0c818f6186305

Corporate food manufacturers, such as General Mills, are warning that climate change is creating conditions for global famine in the years to come.

Negative

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWC_zDdF74s

[Video – 15 mins] Tristram Stuart gives a TED Talk in 2012 entitled “The Global Food Waste Scandal.” He argues that we have gargantuan food surpluses in our world. The problem is that developed, wealthy countries waste an extraordinary amount of food.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/100893540>

CNBC reports that, far from there being a food shortage, the world has 2 to 3 times the amount of food that it needs to feed everyone on the globe. Close to two billion people eat 6 to 7 times the amount of food they need to survive. There is a food distribution problem, and even where food is properly distributed, millions of people literally cannot afford to eat. That is a political problem, maybe even a moral problem. But we do not have a food shortage problem.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2010/09/17/food-crisis-not-about-shortage-food>

When people around the world suffer from a lack of food, it is not because there is a food shortage. Rather, it is because of the lack of social justice. Food prices are driven by global economic inequality and corporate greed. These factors mean that food cannot get to places around the world where it is most needed.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/floyd-hammer/attacking-the-hunger-epid_b_3685464.html

Even though the U.S. Congress has been slow to act, there is a great deal that concerned individuals and non-profit organizations can do and are doing to address regional food shortages around the world. They are fighting global hunger and winning.

Water Shortage

Affirmative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gg-ac0EaYDQ>

[Video – 9 mins] First part of a BBC report from 2008 on the growing fresh water crisis. As the population grows, access to fresh water in Africa and Asia particularly is getting more and more difficult. In 25 years 50% of African countries will suffer from shortages great enough to cause war, according to the United Nations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sim6pFFvhJ8>

[Video – 3 mins] Part 2 of the BBC report. The water shortage has arrived, according to this part of the report. Spain, for example, is facing social upheaval due to the variation in access to fresh water across the country.

https://thewaterproject.org/water-scarcity/?gclid=CjwKEAjkq7GBRDun9iu2JjyhmsSJADHCD_HYXvDqtgLk4XvSyZiNu09uDuYjCbefkJzVitT4IYQKR0CLLPw_wcB

The non-profit organization The Water Project states that there are currently 1 billion people around the world who lack proper access to clean, fresh water. The global water shortage is perhaps the world's greatest humanitarian crisis, since access to water underlies almost all other human endeavors, including growing food.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/08/how-water-shortages-lead-food-crisis-conflicts>

A March 7, 2015 article in The Guardian posits that the next great international political crisis will be a fight over access to fresh water. Water is increasingly scarce in many parts of the globe, and much of the fresh water supply is groundwater, which is essentially not accessible for human use.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/r-business-as-usual-will-create-a-thirsty-planet-in-15-years-says-un-2015-3>

Business Insider (March 20, 2015) recounts a recent United Nations report that states that by 2030 the world will suffer from a 40% deficit in the supply of fresh water that it will need to sustain the population. Urbanization and

global economic development are one cause of that alarming trend, since those who live in cities consume (directly and indirectly) much more water than rural populations.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carl-safina/water-shortage_b_1526169.html

Ironically, the Green Revolution, which has largely solved the global food shortage crisis, has led to a global fresh water shortage, as countries like India which used to be food importers have gone deep into underground water supplies to power significant increases in food production.

Negative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jYr8MFTXrM>

[Video – 5 mins] The United Nations Development Programme issued a report in 2008 that is summarized in this video. The thesis of the report, entitled “Beyond Scarcity,” is that there isn’t a shortage of the supply of fresh water in the world, but widespread poverty, economic inequality, and political failures manifest themselves in the improper use and allocation of water.

<http://www.livescience.com/2639-water-shortage-myth.html>

It is not correct to say that there is a global water shortage. There is in fact no shortage of water, either fresh water or ocean water. Ocean water can be used for drinking and cleaning, if it is desalinated. This can be expensive, but if the need is great enough, society will bear the cost. Fresh water is abundant too. In regions where there is not enough, the issue is distribution, not shortage.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/global-water-shortages-180959318/>

The Smithsonian Institute conducted a closer look at what it calls regions that are “water-stressed.” It found that most of these regions only have seasonal or temporary depletion of water supply. Only 2% of areas that have some level of water-stress are systematically low or short on water.

<http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom/news/2003/15254-en.html>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations argues that, since farming is by far the biggest user of fresh water around the world, the agriculture sector will need to find more efficient means of irrigating crops in order to continue to ensure that there is no global water crisis.

https://www.forbes.com/2008/07/14/california-supply-demand-oped-cx_dz_0715water.html

A more market-based pricing system for water would result in the prevention of water shortages, since as the price of consuming more water rose the more water a person or business consumed, their consumption would go down and the availability of water to others would be protected.

Energy Shortage

Background/Both Sides

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJ-J91SwP8w>

[Video – 5 mins] A narrated, hand-drawn look at the last 300 years of fossil fuel consumption. The video sets up the crisis conditions that the world now faces in its dependence on fossil fuels.

Affirmative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpX60pfSLK8>

[Video – 45 mins, but much of the content of the documentary is covered in the first 12 – 15 minutes] MSNBC documentary on the crisis the world faces because of its addiction to energy. Fossil fuel dependence has created a series of crises that are genuine threats to the survival of humanity. Additionally, fossil fuel dependency is going to be very difficult to overcome. A shift to renewable energy sources is unlikely to happen for many years.

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/11/10/investing/energy-shortage-low-oil/>

Currently low oil prices are deceptive. They are leading to increases in oil consumption, but that is only going to hasten the day when the world either runs out of oil, or that oil becomes too expensive to provide the world with much of its energy needs. Plus, low-cost oil is delaying and deferring the transition to renewable energy.

<https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/its-about-forty-years-until-oil-runs-out>

Experts at a Stanford University conference say that the world will run out of oil and gas within 40 years. We desperately need to move to renewable energy sources.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/11/we-need-an-energy-miracle/407881/>

Bill Gates is not optimistic that the world has a workable and viable strategy for converting to renewable energy, and he is calling on governments, including the U.S. government, to do much more than they are currently committed to doing to speed the transition.

Negative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSkQ1FfS8zM>

[Video – 3 mins] The Wall Street Journal reports in 2016 that there is a world-wide glut in oil and a long-term trend toward lowering use of oil and energy overall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAdD-jC74TY>

[Video – 16 mins] Sarah Chapman delivers a TED Talk in 2015 that argues that solar has reached a tipping point and is nearly cheaper than fossil fuels. Solar energy has the capacity to provide renewable energy throughout the world in the future.

http://www.salon.com/2016/03/09/there_will_be_bedlam_the_global_energy_crisis_is_only_just_beginning_part_ner/

Fracking and other technologies have led to a “bonanza” of new energy discovery and exploitation, continuing to push far out into the future any concerns about the world reaching “peak” oil production, in which global output of oil reaches an upper limit, and then goes into irreversible decline as the world runs out of petroleum reserves, a situation that might lead to economic and political chaos.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/oilandgas/11971280/The-Earth-is-not-running-out-of-oil-and-gas-BP-says.html>

The giant oil company BP (formerly British Petroleum) says that the world is nowhere close to running out of oil and gas, and that global reserves of these resources may double (that is, increase by twice what they are now) by the year 2050, as companies like theirs continue to find new sources, in the ground, underwater, and in the arctic and Antarctic.

<http://www.wnd.com/2009/10/114075/>

Due to the continual development of new technologies, the world will never run out of energy. There is no global every crisis, and there will not be one.