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MP 2 Research Proposal

The topic I have chosen for my independent research project is the impact of climate change on human health. Climate change is a concern that's becoming increasingly relevant in that it's potential dangers seem to be progressively worsening each year. At the rate that global warming is rapidly increasing like never before, not only is the future uncertain, but the fate of humanity is as well. The effects of climate change are already distinguishable and this will only escalate in the coming years. With this in mind, as I complete my academic years and proceed into the professional world of medicine, being able to work with all the adversities following global warming will be very important. Unfortunately, climate change is the future, and therefore, its effects on us as humans is also something we need to be prepared for. I wish to learn not only how climate change will affect the world of medicine, but also it's potential risks on human health on a global and individual level. I want to use this research and the knowledge gained from this invaluable experience to shape how I approach science because the appliance of medicine and science will most definitely change with the impact of climate change on the world and I personally have to adapt with that change seeing as how I want to pursue a profession in medicine. This project will help me grow by broadening my awareness on not only what the future of medicine holds, but changes that are occurring in our current day and age.

In my research project, I am looking to analyze how climate change will affect human health. Climate change is essentially the result of increased amounts of carbon dioxide trapped in the atmosphere due to the escalation of the burning of fossil fuels in the last century. This increase in global warming has not only affected rising sea levels and increased global temperatures, but has proven to be a threat to the health of humanity in the near future. These risks include an increase in disease-carrying mosquitoes and ticks, contaminated water sources and dangerous bacterial infections, an increase in mental health issues, an increase in type 2 diabetes, respiratory problems and strokes, and more car crashes and fewer food inspections. All of these potential threats will soon be a reality in the foreseeable future and this knowledge of the inevitable should be spread and talked about. My interest for this topic stems from my deep curiosity and fascination with climate change, but more specifically my desire to explore how my future in the medical field will be influenced by this. As I examine all of these potential results of global warming, I want to investigate how these threats can potentially be slowed or even stopped, but also identify their roots causes relating back to climate change.

1. What makes certain types of infectious diseases more sensitive to climate change than others and how does increased levels of climate change affect the spread of these diseases?
2. Compare the effects of global warming on the planet to the influence these have on the human species?
3. Identify how healthcare will be changed in the coming years parallel to the increasing prominence of climate change?
4. Reflecting from the beginning of climate change in the last century or so, how have health problems changed through the years and how will they continue to change in the foreseeable future?
5. How do the effects of climate change vary in different

locations of the world and what causes these differences? Furthermore, in which areas are the ramifications elevated and how does healthcare need to be changed/improved to fit these needs?

This research is a lot of cause of effect- the cause being climate change and the effect being the health problems arising as a result- therefore, the research will need to be portrayed in such a way that both the causes and the effects are very clear. Visual elements such as charts, graphs, and tables will be advantageous in presenting this research because to understand climate change, the trends and data need to first be understood in order to properly display the changes happening to our planet due to global warming and how these changes affect us as a race can then be explained. Furthermore, I will give a brief description on what climate change is and then move into how it has been shaping our world and how it will continue to impact the planet. Then, I can move into how these changes impact the health of humans, even going further to discuss what the future will hold in terms of a drastically worsening climate change epidemic. All in all, my presentation will really have two main parts: climate change and then how it correlates with human health. Therefore, to simplify this information, using more visual representations of the data will keep the presentation more interactive and interesting, rather than using an abundance of text to explain the same information. All of my sources are from accredited organizations and are supported by experts in the field. They are all also very informational in presenting all aspects of the topic and all the content is supported by data and works of esteemed individuals in the field. All the sites are up to date and were updated/written recently, and two out of three of my sites are websites made specifically for displaying this research and data on climate change. Also, all three sources are affiliated with known institutions, those being NASA, CNN, and the United Nations. Based on the 7-point checklist, all these sources are credible and of high quality.

Climate change is increasingly becoming more influential and garnering further attention, however rather than just discussing what climate change is, I want to explore the influence this will have on medicine as this directly coincides with not only the future of humanity, but my future as I explore professions in this field. Most of all, I wish to find and prove that climate change is a serious issue that needs to be addressed more than it currently is because at the rate that our planet is worsening at, the future looks bleak. More needs to be done to convey what the future holds as a result of global warming and how this future can potentially be drastically worse if nothing is done to change the course we are currently on. I hypothesize that without intervention, health epidemics will increasingly continue to worsen with the worsening climate change and the field of medicine will need to also change with this shift to properly accommodate these variations.

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