
Global Warming Trial Outline for Persuasive Argument



As you have noticed, people use many different forms of representation, or *modes*, at the same time to explain their ideas or to persuade others to their point of view. These modes include music, photographs, diagrams, illustrations, videos, music, cartoons, graphs, written words, and spoken words.

As you have also discovered, different modes have different *affordances*, or uses for which they are best suited. For example, sad music and close-up photographs of people's faces would not allow you to convey specific changes in the earth's temperature over time, although these forms of representation are well-suited to convey the emotional human impact of global warming. Conversely, if you want to appeal to people's scientific reasoning, a line graph comparing specific temperatures at different points in time would allow you to demonstrate the effects of solar variation better than photographs with music.

You, too, will now go beyond the written word to design another form of representation of your choosing that will convince your classmates of the validity of your position. You can choose many different ways to represent your point: recreate a scientific experiment, show photographs, design a website or game, create graphs, charts, or diagrams that illustrate your main point, film a brief documentary, do any combination of the above, or come up with your own form of presentation. Your overall persuasive argument will be evaluated according to the Persuasive Argument Self-Evaluation Rubric.