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English 1

March 20, 2016

Changing Perspectives On Climate Change

As a snowboarder, I have seen first hand the changes in temperatures and how it has affected the world around us. Specifically are the changes in weather patterns and seasons becoming shorter. Growing up, my family spent a lot of time in Lake Tahoe. When I was younger in the winter, I remember there was always five feet of snow on the ground and the trees were always immaculately white. My brothers and I would play in the snow and we would build snowman and Igloos, lasting the whole season. For the past five years the weather has changed. There has been a lot of snow but only for a short amount of time because it has gotten warmer. This year it would snow at the resorts and it would rain at lake level. Because of the warmer temperatures where normally it would be snowing at ski resorts like Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows, it has been raining. When I was younger and I went skiing, the snow was always powdery. This year there were some powder days but there were more blue bird days. This has caused many people who ski and snowboard to have to travel to other ski areas with more snow. The weather changes has not only affected people but animals. Ironically now the snowboarders have to move and Geese are staying and not migrating. Consider this specific case in point: Canadian geese have always migrated from the cold winters in Lake Tahoe to the warmer temperatures of Mexico. Recently, however, the geese have stopped migrating and have stayed

in Lake Tahoe because of the warm temperatures. Climate change has caused a shift in the migratory pattern not only of geese but snowboarders, who are now the ones who must migrate. The professional snowboarders and people who live in Lake Tahoe for the past five years have had to leave the area to go to colder areas to find better snow conditions. The conditions have gotten worse each year, and snowboarders have had to adapt. This has not only affected snowboarders, it has affected the economy of local companies and ski resorts as well. The change in the migratory patterns of the geese has not only affected the snowboarders. Whether we want to admit Climate Change is real or not it does exist and it affects people and their environment.

Keegan Kliman, a local snowboarder who lives in Lake Tahoe, gives his observation relating to climate change and snowboarding. He shares his experience of the past five years, as he has been going into the backcountry in Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. He has seen first hand the impact of climate change. His home snowboarding resorts are Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows. He went to University of Boulder, Colorado where he found a passion for big Mountain riding. After snowboarding in different areas in the states he noticed that the Pacific Northwest was suffering from a severe drought and on the east coast there were huge storms. Last year Tahoe only got thirty-seven percent of their snowpack average for the year. Because of the warm temperatures it snowed at high elevations at 8,000 feet and at lake level it would rain. In previous years when it snowed on the streets it would last for a long period of time because the temperatures were in the low twenties. For the past two years the temperatures have risen, so the snow melts within a couple of weeks. Due to the lack in snowfall last year in Lake Tahoe, Kliman had to drive to Nevada to snowboard where there was more snow. "Not being able to

snowboard in some of the best terrain is a big bummer because Tahoe has so much to offer,”

Kliman laments. He goes on to explain:

I think long term consequences are going to be worse than most people expect if we don't change our behavior soon. This means we need to stop our consumption of fossil fuels, stop supporting factory farms by eating meat, and change our overall lifestyles drastically. Even then it might be too late. If we want to keep having these amazing powder days and enjoy snowboarding we need to start making drastic changes toward climate change. (Kliman)

For the past five years California has been drastically affected by Climate Change. The lack of snowfall and changes in temperatures have negatively affected the state economically. Specifically ski resorts in Lake Tahoe like Squaw Valley, Northstar and Alpine Meadows have suffered from the lack in snowfall. The following quote shows the snowfall within a year, in Lake Tahoe, “In 2014: 223 inches, 2013: 141 inches, 2012: 530 inches, 2011: 296 inches, 2010: 421 inches” (Tahoe Weekly). In 2014 ski resorts in Lake Tahoe averaged snowpack in mid December was thirty seven percent. This is a problem the resorts face, causing a huge financial burden. In 2011, Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley were combined into one large ski resort to be able to make more ski areas with more operations toward snowmaking. “Since then the resort has made \$70 million worth of snow-making capabilities, spending \$5.2 million since 2012”(Squaw Sources). Amelia Richmond, employee at Alpine and Squaw, explains, “The snow-making is critical. It's really our insurance policy.” Many people have been affected by the

lack of snow, like Jeremy Jones who's home resort is Squaw Valley.

Jeremy Jones is a professional snowboarder who lives in Truckee, California. His local resort is Squaw Valley, but he has been all over the world snowboarding different terrains testing the limits of snowboarding. His career started in 2008 when he was the Freeride World Champion. This event tests the limits of snowboarders and how willing they are to take down a crazy line and stomp it. Jeremy won the contest and in Cody Townsend's view, another professional skier watching event, "The Tram Face will separate the men from the boys." Jones has shaped the snowboarding culture when he decided to leave the competition world and take his riding into the backcountry. Most snowboarders have to keep competing because they are afraid of losing their sponsors but this was not the case for Jeremy went off to ride big mountains and his sponsors followed him and he became one of the biggest names in the sport.

Snowboarding big mountains, Jones has seen the impacts of climate change not only at ski resorts but also in the backcountry like in Alaska. He has seen the lack of snowfall and the temperatures rising and he has gained a significant perspective for climate change he become a huge advocate for saving the environment. In 2007, the resorts he would normally rely on for great powder every year, had less snow each year. Some resorts were closed due to the lack of snowfall. He decided to take action and get other snowboarders and people who love the mountains involved on the issue of climate change. This is when he started the organization Protect Our Winters. Jeremy believes, "This was the perfect group to give a national voice to winter tourism, an industry that supports 900,000+ jobs and creates \$66 billion in economic revenue. While the fossil fuel lobby may outspend environmentalists 20-1 in Washington, we

share a passion that crosses party lines, a unique perspective that de-politicizes any climate discussion, and an industry with an economic impact that can't be ignored." Their goal is engaging sixty million snowboarders from around the world who love the sport to start taking action. Jeremy went to Washington D.C. to introduce his bill on climate change. He states, "Though we can dress up for meetings, in the end we are pro athletes, dirtbags and diehards; for us, winter is not just a passion, but a way of life." POW has had a huge influence on the younger generations of snowboarders because of the involvement of professional athletes in social activism. Professional athletes of POW have met with over 50,000 high school students, have talked in communities and have written in newspapers about climate change. Also, the athletes have gone to Washington D.C. to talk with lawmakers asking for them to support the climate policy (Protect Our Winters). POW has been successful in promoting their cause through social media, creating awareness in people around the world. If the younger generation is aware of climate change when they are adolescents, hopefully they can take action and end climate change.

Protect Our Winters has a riders alliance that has seventy-five of the most accomplished professional athletes, mostly snowboarders, who are advocates for the environment.

Snowboarders like Jack Johnson, Danny Davis, Kelly Clark and Jamie Anderson are influential leaders in the snowboarding world. These professional athletes are known through snowboarding movies or have competed in Winter X Games and are sponsored by big name snowboard companies like Burton, Roxy, Rome, Jones Snowboards and Volcom. These athletes are looked upon by adolescents as heroes and role models. As a part of this alliance, snowboarders visit schools in different areas, as well as speaking to the community about Climate Change.

Normally when people learn about Climate Change it's from scientists because they have raw data and research. Snowboarders are educated about Climate Change as well, since they have been affected first hand by the changes in climate. Big Mountains snowboarders like Jeremy Jones and John Jackson travel around the world in search of the best snow conditions in places like Alaska, Patagonia, Japan, the Alps and Europe where the mountains are bigger and where there is the most snow. Traveling to these locations, athletes have seen the changes in the environment and how it has negatively affected the winters and how temperatures are rising. They want to stop climate change by informing the public to take action. According to Jones, "I've seen definitive change in the mountains. I have concerns for the future generation. We inherit the earth from the people in front of us, and then we pass it on to the next generation. I don't think we've done a great job with our responsibility to leave the earth a better place than what we were born into." POW's goal is to educate the population and to keep our environment healthy for future generations. It is our responsibility for every individual to be aware of Climate Change and to alter our lifestyles to be more green so future generations can enjoy winters.

Climate Change has already affected the world and our environment. Whether we want admit Climate Change is true, the evidence shows the environment is changing and if we don't do something to stop it the future generations will have to pay for our mistakes. People are allowed to have opinions, but the fact is the climate is changing and we need to address the problems now so future generations will live in a healthy environment. POW is one organization that is pushing for climate activism lead by professional snowboarders by educating the public hopefully they will take a stand and help find a solution.

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Rubric for the Innovator Research Paper:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Focus	There is little or no sense of argument, and the paper wanders as a result. Generalizations and inconsistencies disorient the reader.	Central question(s) and thesis statement are present but fairly obvious. Argumentative focus is not consistently maintained or suffers from generalizations. The purpose and relevance of the discussion are not consistently clear for the audience.	Writer establishes central question(s) about the topic and a clear thesis (although it could be more complex). Writer typically maintains this argumentative focus throughout the paper. The audience gets a sense of purpose and relevance, although the argumentative structure could be better defined.	Writer establishes compelling central question(s) about the topic and a clear, argumentative thesis; this argumentative focus is honed throughout the paper. Writer communicates a clear purpose, making the relevance of the argument distinct for the audience.
Content / Organization	Introduction neither hooks the reader nor establishes appropriate context for the thesis. Body paragraphs are underdeveloped or lacking. Conclusion is missing or does not clearly bring closure to the paper. Transitions are incorrect or missing. Quotations are missing or are dropped into the text. Sentence structure and vocabulary are in need of serious improvement.	A hook is attempted, but ineffective. Context for the thesis is either thin or overdone. Body paragraphs might show some of the writer's original thinking about the topic, but they are underdeveloped or inconsistent. Conclusion basically restates the main argument but does not bring a meaningful sense of closure to the discussion or leave a lasting impression. Transitions are effective sometimes, but in other places they are incorrect or missing. Quotations are mostly dropped into the text or are	Introduction hooks the reader and establishes context for the thesis, although these elements could work more effectively. Body paragraphs develop the writer's thinking about the topic, but more varied patterns of development would improve the breadth and depth of the discussion. Conclusion makes clear how the central question(s) have been resolved, but could do more to add closure to the discussion and leave a lasting impression. Transitions are used effectively most of the time and most	Introduction hooks the reader powerfully and efficiently establishes context for the thesis. Body paragraphs demonstrate breadth and depth of thought about the research topic through varied patterns of development. Conclusion is memorable, leaving the reader with a distinct sense of how the central question(s) have been resolved. Transitions link sentences and paragraphs smoothly and quotations are smoothly integrated into the text. Sentences are

		not integrated smoothly. Sentence structure and vocabulary clearly need more development.	quotations are integrated smoothly into the text. Sentences tend to demonstrate sophistication in a couple of the following areas: variation, flow, creativity, mature vocabulary.	consistently sophisticated (varied, smooth, creative, mature vocabulary).
Use of Sources	Research sources are lacking or off-topic. Writer may string together quotations without taking time to paraphrase, comment, or analyze.	Research sources are fairly one-dimensional, focusing on a single perspective. Writer's own words are not consistently balanced with quoted material.	Research sources establish a couple of perspectives on the topic, but could be more thorough/varied. Writer does a good job of maintaining a balance of own words and quoted material.	Research sources are thorough and varied, establishing different perspectives on the topic. Writer balances own words (paraphrasing, commentary, analysis) and quoted material compellingly.
Mechanics	Writing is seriously obscured by spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.	Writing contains many errors. Errors affect reader's understanding.	Writing contains some errors, but not at the expense of understanding.	Writing is polished, free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.

See draft for comments

Grade: B