Name: _____

*Assignment designed by Amanda Figolah, Kirstin Milks, and Catherine Peterson at Bloomington High School South

Email OR post to a politician

Congrats on completing this course on the Earth's atmosphere! This assignment will help you gather the ideas you'll use to write an email to the Indiana governor (or other politician or candidate for political office) OR make a social-media-style video aimed at a politician to **express your opinion about energy and climate policy in our nation**, using facts to support your position. ***You don't have to send your letter / video at the end… but you can!***

Your work must be suitable for all ages and all social situations.
This assignment counts as half of your final exam grade.

To find the answers to these questions, use your binder pages to find answers -- we've linked blank copies of the relevant assignments to help you!

PART 1: Collecting facts (evidence) and reasoning for your letter

Answer the following using **high-quality complete sentences, including ENDING PUNCTUATION**. That way you can just copy and paste in your sentences into your letter and/or easily rework them for your video at the end!

0) Give your first and last name and tell the reader where you go to school. Why are you writing (see above)? *Delete the blanks once you fill them in.*

My name is _____ _____, and I am a student at _____ High School. I am writing you because

1) What is the most common greenhouse gas that is released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned? *Delete the blanks once you fill them in.*

The most common greenhouse gas that is released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned is _____ _____.

2) **Coal is the most widely-used fossil fuel in electricity generation.** What is coal made from? How does it form from this starting material?

Coal is the most widely-used fossil fuel in electricity generation. It's formed from

3) What is a greenhouse gas? In other words, what how do greenhouse gasses influence Earth's temperature?

Greenhouse gasses like the ones emitted when we burn coal or natural gas heat the atmosphere by

4) *TWO POINTS:* How do we know what climate was like in the past? **Give an example** of one type of evidence that allows us to track climate from hundreds of thousands of years ago, and ****list TWO**** types of data we know from it.

It might seem strange that we know the climate is changing due to human activity, but we are able to track past climate from hundreds of thousands of years ago to now by using

5) What are a few of the consequences of humans burning fossil fuels? List three!

Right now, rapid climate change due to increased carbon emissions is already having huge consequences on our planet. As you know, these include

6) *TWO POINTS:* Are all people across the world impacted equally from climate change? Give TWO specific examples after the starter sentence. *Write your sentences in the arrowed spot, then delete the arrow and extra spaces to make one smooth paragraph.*

Unfortunately, people across the world will not be impacted equally from climate change.

→

7) What are the big impacts we're already feeling in Indiana? Find the second sentence at this link from the Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment and summarize the three big changes in your sentence **in your own words** (**don't just copy and paste; summarize instead!**).

Here in Indiana, we're already seeing impacts that are going to get more extreme without humans making big changes, including

Hey, you're halfway through! In the second body paragraph of your letter/video, you'll be communicating about energy policy we need state and federal governments to support. Scroll down or turn the page to finish up!

8) What are FOUR of the different categories (check out EN-ROADS) that we will need to change? **One (the one for Part A in the assignment) is already listed for you**.

To fight climate change by mitigating global warming to the internationally agreed target of below 2°C by 2100, state and federal government must take immediate action to support climate-friendly transformation. We will need to make changes in sectors including energy supply,

9) *THREE POINTS:* Pick ONE specific technology we will need to support. What category/sector is it in (see the first page of the linked assignment)?
Describe:
   - what it means in one or two sentences,
   - give any facts available about how much carbon dioxide Project Drawdown estimates it will reduce, and
   - give at least TWO reasons why it is a good policy to support.

As you were directed in previous questions, erase the blanks in your answer and, when you are finished, delete the blank space to make one smooth paragraph.

One specific technology we should start developing more fully is _____, in the _____ sector.

→

10) *TWO POINTS:* End your letter with a final body paragraph that contains at least THREE sentences. In this paragraph, make sure you:
   - use professional yet persuasive language to review why we must take action now,
   - include how long we've known about climate change and its impacts, and
   - describe the hope you have for your, your family's, or our world's future if climate action happens now.

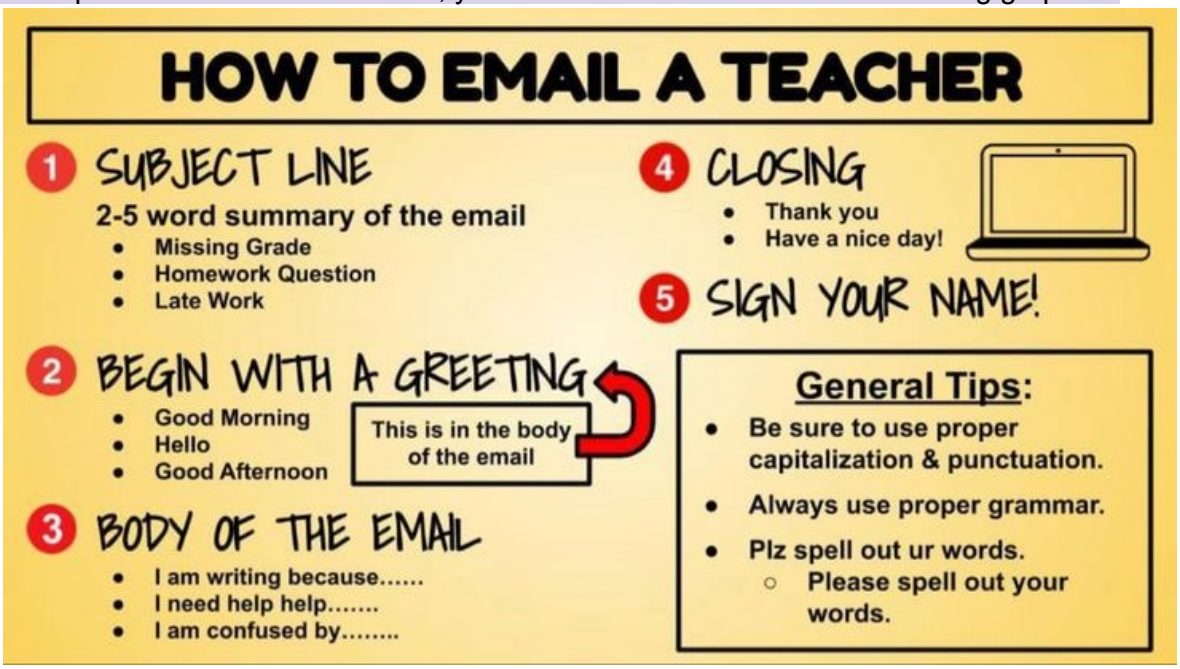
Scroll down on the digital assignment to complete PART 2!

PART 2: Putting your final project together

CHOICE 1: WRITE A LETTER (details below).
CHOICE 2: Make a FLIP video that's like a social media post (details below).

CHOICE 1: WRITE A LETTER.

In the space below, you'll put together your answers to questions 1-10 to create a strong letter to a politician or political candidate. To do so, you'll need one more look at the following graphics.



See the formatting below the email envelope on this graphic for formatting details:

https://blog.tcea.org/writing-an-email-for-students/

Your email/letter needs the following pieces in order:

- Subject line
- Greeting with name of recipient—example: **Good afternoon, Governor Holcomb,**
- Body of the email:
    - A strong starting paragraph. Copy and paste the **PURPLE** box (question 0)!
    - A paragraph about climate change. Copy and paste the completed sentences IN ORDER from the **YELLOW** boxes (questions 1-7).
    - A paragraph about what climate action technology we should support. Copy and paste the completed sentences IN ORDER from the **GREEN** boxes (questions 8 and 9).
    - A strong ending paragraph. Copy and paste the **BLUE** box (question 10).
- Closing/end your email—example: **Sincerely,**
- "Sign" your first and last name at the very end

Here's how we'll grade this assignment:

4 points	Email formatting: • Subject line is concise, clear, and relevant • Greeting is directed at a politician, elected official, or someone running for office • Closing • First and last name signed
1 point	PARAGRAPH 1 (**PURPLE** box) • Question 0
9 points	PARAGRAPH 2 (Questions in **YELLOW** boxes) • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4A • 4B • 5 • 6A • 6B • 7
4 points	PARAGRAPH 3 (Questions in **GREEN** boxes) • 8 • 9A • 9B • 9C
2 points	PARAGRAPH 3 (Questions in **BLUE** box) • 10A • 10B

MY FINAL LETTER (assemble your email in the space below, then follow additional instructions for submission):

→ As you copy the text from each colorful box, right click and select "PASTE WITHOUT FORMATTING" to get the text without the boxes or larger font.

CHOICE 2: Make a FLIP video that's like a social media post

To complete this assignment, you'll be making a script and then recording a video in FLIP.

- Using the sentences you wrote above, make a script to present your FLIP video.
    - PLEASE NOTE: You can use text and effects like in a Snap, Instagram, or TikTok video -- but some choices are limited compared to social media platforms.
    - See how we'll grade your submission below.
- **Go to https://flip.com/edd063a0 to record your video directly in Flip! You have three minutes to hit all the checkboxes below.**

Here's how we'll grade this assignment:

4 points	Post formatting: • **Your post communicates your ideas effectively** • You use language and visuals that are appropriate for all people in all situations • Your post has an interesting "hook" to get people interested • You are specific about the benefits of climate-change-fighting technology
1 point	PARAGRAPH 1 (**PURPLE** box) • Question 0
9 points	PARAGRAPH 2 (Questions in **YELLOW** boxes) • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4A • 4B • 5 • 6A • 6B • 7
4 points	PARAGRAPH 3 (Questions in **GREEN** boxes) • 8 • 9A • 9B • 9C
2 points	PARAGRAPH 3 (Questions in **BLUE** box) • 10A • 10B