

Climate threats and technology

Introduction

In this unit you will look at major threats to the sustainability of life on earth. 2018 in particular has been a hectic year, with many worrying trends like climate change, intensifying storms, and political instability all contributing to a maelstrom that shows no signs of slowing down. But thankfully, it is not all doom and gloom. Perhaps with the same technologies that got us into this mess, we can shift our focus from one of consumption to one of preservation. It's clear that we need common solutions, and it will fall on your generation to provide them!



Read the following article from *The Seattle Times* about a unique climate issue that Seattle faces.

<https://www.citylab.com/environment/2018/04/seattle-thinks-it-knows-rain-climate-change-begs-to-differ/557291/>

Next, take a look at the *National Climate Assessment*, a comprehensive study of the biggest threats posed to the United States by the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Of particular interest is the section focusing on the Pacific Northwest (<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/highlights/regions/northwest>).



As you read the article and browse the website, consider how technology can be used to provide solutions to these unique challenges.



You will then pick one of the issues facing Seattle and the Pacific Northwest to develop a plan or course of action. You may choose from the *Seattle Times* article or the *National Climate Assessment* website – it's up to you!

Part 1) Summarize the issue that you have chosen. In a **three to four paragraph** essay, explain the issue and address the following questions:

- Why is it a threat?
- What are the implications if not addressed?
- How will climate change intensify its effects?

Part 2) Come up with a solution or plan to address the issue. Your plan can be in the form of a **three to four paragraph** essay **OR** a **four to five slide** presentation. Your plan should address the following:

- Technologies you will use
- New infrastructure you propose to build
- Estimate of the costs involved
- How feasible you think your plan will be at addressing the issue.