

Argumentative Sample Response

To Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro:

My name is Jada, and I am an 8th-grade student from New Haven, Connecticut. I am writing to ask you to make protecting our climate a top priority. We have been studying climate change in my English class, and one of our assignments was to write a fictional scene describing what life might be like in Connecticut in 100 years—if we do not stop the climate crisis. I have attached my scene to this letter. In it, you will see that climate change has the potential to make our state almost unrecognizable. If the government does not take immediate action on climate change, Connecticut residents will see sea levels rise and face more frequent air quality emergencies as a result of forest fires.

The government must take action to stop climate change because Connecticut is very vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise. Warming temperatures around the globe are causing the polar ice caps to melt, resulting in sea level rise. Higher sea levels can lead to frequent flooding, soil erosion, and destruction of property. In my narrative, the main character's mother points out where houses and parks used to be before the water level rose. This is a reality we could face in the near future. According to the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation, "Connecticut sea level rise could increase 1.5 feet by 2050 and up to 3 feet by 2100." That is bad news for a state with so much shoreline and so many people living on it. In fact, 61% of Connecticut's residents live in coastal communities (CT Dept. of Energy). If we do not stop the climate crisis, countless homes are at risk of being destroyed by the rising tide.

Along with sea level rise, rapidly increasing temperatures put Connecticut at much higher risk for air quality emergencies from forest fire smoke. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that over the last century, "Connecticut has warmed twice as much as the rest of the contiguous 48 states." Higher temperatures can lead to droughts, droughts can lead to forest fires, and forest fires lead to smoke in the air. In my narrative, Lio and his mother both have to wear masks at all times—even in their home—due to wildfire smoke. As we saw in the summer of 2023, forest fires don't even have to be located in the United States to have a significant impact on the health of people in Connecticut. The quality of our air is already so poor that "the American Lung Association gave all eight Connecticut counties an F grade" (Yale Center). The increased frequency of forest fires will only make things worse by introducing more toxins into the atmosphere, thereby continuing to worsen the health of our citizens.

I would like to thank you for the work that you have already done to combat climate change. According to the League of Conservation Voters, you consistently vote to support legislation aimed at combatting the climate crisis. However, there is still so much more that can be done. Our planet continues to warm at an alarming rate. In Connecticut, warming temperatures will lead to a long list of harmful consequences, including the destruction of homes due to sea level rise and frequent air quality emergencies due to forest fires. I do not want to live in a world like Lio's. Please fight on behalf of my generation and all the generations to come.

Thank you,

Jada F.