***Pollution and Global Warming – An Argumentative Essay/Speech***

***A Huge Mistake***

In the past 91 years, our planet has harshly accelerated in population; in 1066 the population was 1.5 million. In 1800, the world’s population billion, in only 130 years, in 1930, the population of the Earth had more than doubled to a large 2.4 billion. In 91 years – today – the world’s population has reached a colossal 7.91 billion and will be reaching 8 billion in 2024. (great statistics to open with: they’re sensational and shocking! A fantastic way to grab the attention right from the outset.) These statistics have shown not only the accelerating population of humankind, but also hidden in those words lurk the development of machinery (love this almost personification here, the word ‘lurk’ has a great, threatening connotation) that us homo sapiens have made to destroy. In a short summary of events: in 1886 the first telephone was made. In 1925 the first television was made, and today ever-changing machinery has damaged, and is damaging, the environment. ~~But~~ (I wouldn’t start a sentence with the word ‘but’. Maybe ‘however’ is a better choice) However, human settlements have changed and in ~~only~~ less than 1000 years, we have gone from living in an isolated farmhouse to an immense city. (I love the alliteration of ‘isolated’ and ‘immense’, really highlighting the contrast!) As the famous young activist Greta Thunberg (born 2003) quotes: “I don't want you to be hopeful, I want you to panic”. (brilliant use of a quote from a trusted source to back up your argument here) A summary of this quote: If we ignore Global Warming and Climate Change, it may be too late to change the world back to normal in the not-so distant future. If we act right now, the world would be a better place. (such a strong argument! I like that you took it upon yourself to clarify the quote you’ve used! I would use more ‘you’ than ‘we’ here, just to make the reader feel as if it’s them specifically that has to act!)

***How Can We Help?*** (for an essay, I wouldn’t use subtitles: you can just make it clear that this is what you will be talking about in the paragraph, using topic sentences!)

There are many ways we can help fight this loathsome (beautiful vocabulary!) crisis: even (careful with your capital letters! You only need one after a full stop, or with a proper noun!) if you simply turn off the lights ~~if~~ when you are not in that room and turning off the tap when you do not need it can make a change. Remember, every little action can help. (a good, punchy sentiment) Riding a bicycle instead of driving a car is also common as well. Every step you take instead of every mile you drive with the car has a much larger impact on the environment and our wellbeing than harmful petrol/diesel cars. (you use more direct address here, this is really great! Super compelling)

***Examples in History***

One example of human error on the environment was on Saturday 26th April 1986 in the 4th reactor of the Northern Chernobyl power-plant in Ukraine (I love that you’re using examples from history, this is a really imaginative way to approach this essay, and I think Chernobyl is a great choice!) – this is generally accepted as one of the worst nuclear disaster in the history of mankind, this also led to the downfall of the Soviet Union in 1989. (great context) The reactor had exploded by pressing the wrong button. Another disaster was the Great Smog in London in December 1952 and went on for 5 days, killing 15,000 people. Smog is a deadly form of smoke, it can kill people within hours if inhaled deeply (I think you should just circle back to the fact that this was caused by a change in the environment, just to stay focused on the question) (there is a special name for the disease for breathing in smog or volcanic ash and is often considered to be the longest word in English: it is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis!!!!) (aha! I love this fact: I didn’t know this word! Brilliant way to keep this engaging, and therefore compelling!)

***Conclusion***

In conclusion, if we do not act now, there will be ~~huge~~ (‘catastrophic’ is an even better word to use here) consequences in the future: in the 2040s, scientists predict that farms will collapse around the world due to incredibly dry soil and there may be rationing, by the 2050s there will be frequent shortages of food all over the world due to overfishing and by 2100, who knows? (I love that you’ve used a rhetorical question here, leaving this awful prospect open to speculation!)

The world could have ended.

If we do not act now. (such a powerful ending!!)

***By Benjamin Cai***

**What Went Well:**

-You use an abundance of persuasive techniques throughout this essay, Benjamin! I’m super impressed! I really love this open ended question, ‘who knows?’, and the threat it brings. You also use some amazing statistics, and even some case studies such as Chernobyl and the Great Smog. This is such a compelling piece of work, well done!

-I really like how you’ve structured this essay, and used your imagination to make it even more successful. It is clear, concise and punchy. This order and structure is super important, and I especially like that you’ve included a whole paragraph for historical examples.

-Your tone is very confident in this piece of work, something that is so important in persuasive writing. This is partly due to your use of facts, and quotes from people like Greta Thunburg, but also you speak decisively, with a feeling of unity between all people against the danger of global warming. So good!

**Even Better If…:**

-I would love to see you bringing your descriptive writing skills to this kind of essay, focusing on techniques such as alliteration, similes, metaphors, personification etc. For example, you could say, ‘the earth is screaming for our help’ (personification). These techniques are so compelling, and turn a factual essay into one of descriptive finesse!

-Try to stay completely focused on the question! If you make a point, or a few points, make absolutely sure that you circle back at the end of the paragraph, and bring it back to how these examples evidence your argument. This helps to retain clarity, and as long as you’re doing this, everything you say will relate to the question!

-Your structure, on the whole, is wonderful and clear. However, I would avoid using sub-headings in an essay, as this makes it read as more of a leaflet/informational brochure. In an essay, all you need is a topic sentence for each paragraph, to tell the reader what point you’ll be making. No need for extra clarification! As an example, instead of a heading for ‘examples in history’, you could write the topic sentence, ‘Throughout history, we have seen examples of catastrophic climate crises.’ Then, go on to your Point, Evidence and Explanation.

Overall, superb work! Well done :D