

Name:	Date:
Teacher:	Period:
Group members, if any:	

1. Please work on this individually:

Is climate change relevant? Is the topic of climate important to you personally? Is the topic important to your community?

Please circle the choice below that best matches how you feel about the topic's relevance.

Climate change is not important to me <i>and</i> is not important to my community	Climate change is not important to me, <i>but</i> is important to my community
Climate change is important to me, <i>but</i> is not important to my community	Climate change is important to me <i>and</i> is important to my community

When instructed, flip over to Page 2.

2. Please work on this individually and read the following information carefully.

Humans create **models** to help explain things.

Below are two models. These provide different explanations for why global temperatures have increased over the past 100 years and average sea levels have increased over the past 50 years.

Model A: Climate change is caused by humans who are releasing gases into the atmosphere.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

A few gases in Earth's atmosphere prevent some of Earth's energy from escaping out into space. Human activities are increasing the amount of these gases in the atmosphere. Therefore, humans are causing climate change.

Model B: Climate change is caused by increasing amounts of energy released from the Sun.

A person who supports this model makes the following argument:

The Sun is the main source of energy for planet Earth. Scientists have shown that for thousands of years Earth's average temperature increases when the Sun releases more energy. Therefore, the Sun is causing climate change.

Plausibility is a judgment we make about the potential truthfulness of one explanatory model compared to another. The judgment may be tentative (not certain). You do not have to be committed to that decision.

Circle the plausibility of each model. [Make two circles, one for each model.]

	Greatly implausible (or even impossible)									Highly plausible
Model A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Model B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10