

Activity 2

Why We Keep Ignoring Even the Most Dire Climate Change Warnings

Exercise 1

Fill in the gaps with words from the box

Volumes of research have been published over the decades trying to explain how and why we so often miscalculate risk—over-preparing for things that are not likely to hurt us and ignoring or shrugging off the things that are.

“When it comes to acting on problems, the ¹_____ of our current comforts and ²_____ will often cause us to act contrary to our ³_____,” says Paul Slovic, University of Oregon psychologist. “If we think the consequences are far in the future, we tend to ⁴_____ the risk. People just aren’t going to inconvenience themselves unless they’re forced to.”



Indeed, even when the risk is not far in the future—when, say, a hurricane is cannonballing toward the coast and the government orders a(n) ⁵_____—plenty of people still don’t ⁶_____. Other people may need to make tracks, but your storm windows are top-of-the-line, or your house is on ⁷_____ higher ground, so why get off the ⁸_____? If we find it so easy to talk ourselves out of ⁹_____ in the face of a storm that’s just days away, a disaster that’s many years away doesn’t stand a ¹⁰_____.

We establish that kind of distance from risk not just temporally but ¹¹_____ and culturally. If you live in an inland region, well, the ¹²_____ are going to inundate the suckers on the coast, not you. If you live on the coast, it’s the *south* coast that’s going to get ¹³_____ and you live north. And developed nations like the U.S. are typically going to be able to deal with climate ¹⁴_____ better than developing ones, which allows us to conclude that while disasters happen elsewhere, they don’t happen here.

“The question is often, ‘Do I feel ¹⁵_____?’” says Slovic. “For the most part we don’t and that shapes our behavior.”

Adapted from: TIME By Jeffrey Kluger, October 8, 2018, 4:48 PM EDT <https://time.com/5418690/why-ignore-climate-change-warnings-un-report/>

values	floods	budge	conveniences	discount
instability	hit	lure	vulnerable	slightly
acting	couch	geographically	evacuation	chance

Exercise 2

The movie is intended as a metaphor for climate change.

In "Don't Look Up," a planet-killing comet hurtling toward Earth stands in as a metaphor for the climate crisis.

A film about a comet hurtling towards Earth and no one is doing anything about it ? Sounds exactly like the climate crisis.

But there are others who think that climate change is not treated deeply enough.

"Don't Look Up" stands out for being less about the effects of climate change and more about the way cultural forces have attenuated the urgency of the climate crisis.

It's also the most accurate film about society's terrifying non-response to climate breakdown I've seen.

What do you think? Would you consider this film in one way or the other?

Read the following statement:

People don't care that much about climate change because worst-case scenarios for climate change, as terrible as some are, manifest themselves over a century and would not end all life here.

Write an opinion essay (150-200 words)