

OUR FUTURE, OUR CHOICES

8.3 Innovation to Address Climate Challenges

Goal: Reflect on possible climate futures, evaluate environmental claims, and justify solutions using evidence and clear academic English.

Team members: _____

Part 1 Based on the TED-Ed video “What Earth in 2050 Could Look Like.” Discuss what you understood and support your answers with details from the video.

1. Identify two climate-related challenges or possible consequences mentioned in the video.

2. How might one of these challenges affect people’s daily lives?

3. Why does acting now matter? Which possible future worries your team most, and why?

Part 2 CASE STUDY The “Eco-Friendly” Package

A company launches biodegradable packaging and calls it “completely green.” However, producing it uses large amounts of water and energy. The company does not share data about its manufacturing process.

4. What is one potential benefit and one environmental concern?

5. Is the company’s claim convincing? What evidence would you request before recommending it?

Language in action: Write a cautious conclusion using “It is believed that...” or “It is reported that...”. Do not present an unsupported claim as a proven fact.

Part 3 SCENARIO A City Preparing for 2050

A city faces rising temperatures, polluted air, and growing energy needs. Funding is limited. The government can prioritize ONE major project.

Innovation	Potential benefit	Possible limitation
Electric public buses	Lower transportation emissions	High initial investment
Urban green spaces	Reduce urban heat; support air quality	Need land and maintenance
Solar-powered buildings	Reduce fossil-fuel dependence	High installation costs

6. Compare the three options. Which is the most feasible with limited funding? Explain.

7. Who would benefit from your choice? Could anyone face barriers or disadvantages?

8. Which ONE innovation does your team recommend? Consider environmental impact, cost, feasibility, equity, and long-term benefits.

Part 4 Use information from your analysis. Write complete, meaningful statements.

Communicative goal	Our team's statement
Report a concern using passive reporting	It is _____
Report a possible benefit using passive reporting	It is _____
Use a noun phrase for a benefit	_____
Use a noun phrase for a limitation or impact	_____

FINAL REFLECTION Can a climate innovation be successful if it benefits the environment but disadvantages some communities? Why?

Padlet Instructions

- Choose one innovation your team considers the best solution for the city.
- Create one Padlet post per team that includes:
 - Chosen innovation:
 - Justification:
 - Two benefits:
 - One limitation:
 - Final recommendation:
- Include at least 2 passive reporting structures and 2 noun phrases in your explanations.
- Add a relevant image to make your post visually appealing.