

Text-based composition Musteraufgabe mit Schüler*innenlösung

Text:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/05/governments-coronavirus-urgent-climate-crisis>

Task:

"Imagine, then, that we felt the same sense of emergency about the climate crisis as we do about coronavirus." (ll. 35-36)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples the author mentions regarding the urgency of the climate crisis.

Composition

According to the text the climate crisis is a global emergency of the highest urgency. However, in contrast to the coronavirus pandemic the climate crisis is treated as being something futuristic because there aren't enough emergency actions or ministerial statements. The author points out that, although urgent actions to prevent a pandemic are necessary and pressing, at the same time the climate crisis represents a deadlier existential threat. This is why the author asks the reader to "imagine, then, that we felt the same sense of emergency about the climate crisis as we do about coronavirus." (35-36)

The author gives several examples of the urgency of the climate crisis in his text.

First of all, the climate crisis has the potential of destabilising entire economies and overwhelming poorer countries that lack resources and infrastructure (2-3). Also, the climate crisis kills seven million people every year because of the air pollution which is just one aspect of this crisis (8-9). This shows that we are already out of time when it comes to saving the climate because of the high numbers of people killed. According to research climate change also might lead to pandemics, as species will be driven to higher altitudes where they can come in contact with new diseases (28-30). The author also mentions that extreme weather is responsible for the Antarctic and the Arctic ice sheets now melting a lot faster than it was only a few decades ago. So, we only have 10 years left to prevent a 1.5C rise above pre-industrial temperature (24-26). The most urgent example is that in 2018 already more than 60 million people suffered the consequences of climate change including 1,600 who succumbed to heatwaves and wildfires (see line 17-19).

As we can see from the text, the climate crisis is nowhere near to being treated with the same urgency as the coronavirus. The author points out the dangers we currently face because of the climate crisis; these dangers are not taken as seriously because the coronavirus is more en vogue right now. This, however, doesn't diminish the dangers of the climate crisis.

(350 words)