



## Section ONE – Introducing a Changing Climate

Question: What images come to your mind when you think about the ‘Earth’?

Question: In one breath describe human impact upon the earth?

Engage - Gratitude (30 Minutes): Go outside into a natural space, get comfortable, calm your mind and heart, and allow yourself to acknowledge the things around you for which you are grateful. What are you grateful for? How does gratitude feel to you? What does gratitude want of you? Share with others.

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Question: Do you believe that the earth is a living being? What evidence do you have for this belief?

Reflection: Have you ever considered the earth as a gift? What are our responsibilities upon receiving gifts of this magnitude?

Engage - Homebound (15 Minutes): For 15 minutes, reflect upon this statement: “The earth is the only home we have ever known. Our abilities to cope with stress, environment, even the mixture of molecules we inhale, are all tailored to your body and the bodies of those around you.” Write your response down in a journal and consider explaining to another person.

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Question: How do *you* describe the Anthropocene Age?

Question: In light of what you’ve learned in this section, do you believe that we as a species have constructed our societies on untested assumptions about the world around us? Please name two of those assumptions and share these with others.

Engage - Collaborating in Mud! (30 Minutes): In a small circle of others, please clarify the muddiest point in your mind about what you’ve learned in this section.



## Section TWO – Roots of a Changing Climate

Question: What images come to your mind when you think about the roots of a changing climate?

Question: Identify two responses you bring to a changing climate in the midst of its deep-rootedness in our lives.

Engage - 3-1-3 (30 Minutes): Write a three-minute one-page paper on three themes that you heard in the video of this section. In the paper clarify why these themes stood out to you.

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Question: In what ways do these international responses reaffirm or challenge your perceptions of a changing climate?

Question: The United Nations is intended to represent the interests of peoples and countries. All of us are located somewhere in this mix. What responsibilities do you believe we have to engage with all of this material in this section? Be specific.

Engage - Map it Out! (30 Minutes): Draw a visual timeline -- be as creative as you like -- that highlights five main features of the United Nations work in this section.

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Question: Identify three values that come from religious or spiritual traditions, which can assist all of us in coping with a changing climate.

Question: Think of two classic stories from within religious or spiritual traditions of which you are aware. How can these stories instruct us in a way that creates a more resilient future?

Engage - Filling in the Gaps! (30 Minutes): Many different religions have issued formal statements addressing the realities and challenges of a changing climate. In a small group, and working on the internet, locate three of these statements. Next, identify what is missing - or where are the gaps (?) - that these statements fail to address. What would you to fill in the gaps?

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Question: Do the scientific facts of a changing climate require me to believe in this science in order for it to be true? Explain.

Question: Think about what climate science is telling us about the state of our Earth. How can you use this information to create positive change *right now*?

Engage - A Letter to the Future: (20 Minutes): Draft a short letter to the future. As you write this letter, consider three concerns you have regarding the state of our Earth and three questions you would like the future to provide answers to. Be specific.



## Section THREE – Culture and a Changing Climate

Question: How can defining culture help us understand its relationship and/or proximity to climate?

Question: How can pop culture be utilized as a vessel for action in response to a changing climate?

Engage - One On One (15 Minutes): For this exercise, get together with one other person. For five minutes, detail to the other person the ways that culture has influenced or informed your identity; your values; your principles. When you are finished, switch roles with your partner and allow them to speak for five minutes. Once you are both finished, take another five minutes to discuss amongst yourselves the similarities and differences in your responses

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Question: Do you believe you have an individual responsibility to challenge, or otherwise be critical of cultural norms? Why or why not?

Question: How do you describe how culture is constructed? In addition, how is culture preserved and changed? Identify three ways in which culture shapes our everyday lives.

Engage - Cultural Reflections (15 minutes): Take a moment to reflect on your relationships to the cultures of which you are a part and then respond to the following on one page. Ask yourself: How has culture influenced/informed my identity, my values, and my actions? What has culture taught me? What do I cherish? And, what do I wish to challenge?

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Question: In mainstream media you are often referred to as a consumer. What is complicated about referring to human beings as consumers?

Question: Okay, so you're a consumer. Are you comfortable with this designation? If not, identify two terms that can or should be used in the future to reference our relationship to the Earth.

Engage - Pop Culture Calls to Action (10 Minutes): In 10 minutes, write down ideas of activities you can engage in that will help bring the complex social, political, and environmental issues that you care about to the forefront of popular culture. Afterward, share this list with at least one other person and spend ten minutes discussing the particulars of your list with them and vice-versa.

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Question: In view of the above links and stories, what responsibilities do we have to act in solidarity with communities being affected by the climate crisis right now?

Question: Confronting the climate crisis requires us to engage in a global conversation. What awareness can members of communities take away from one another's stories? Take a moment to consider and then respond aloud to how local stories around the world resonate with you or other members of your own community.

Engage - Preparing Your Interview (20 Minutes): Familiarize yourself with one local story from around the world that is related to a changing climate. Then, take 20 minutes to write out a full set of interview questions you would like to ask someone who has been affected by the events detailed in that story. Once you've written your questions, talk to at least one other person about the story you've focused on and explain to them the significance of the questions you plan to ask.



## Section FOUR – Impact of a Changing Climate

Question: How would you describe the impact of a changing climate on human beings? How do you feel current and predicted environmental changes are affecting you?

Question: How has our changing climate forced us to redefine who we are as people in relation to the Earth?

Engage - Personal Journal (20 Minutes): After reading about the emotional impact that our changing climate is having on people across the globe, take 20 minutes to journal about your own feelings about the state of our Earth. As you write, open your heart and allow yourself to be vulnerable. If you feel comfortable, take turns sharing the contents of your journal entry with one or two other people.

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Question: How does the Anthropocene age challenge the functions of our social, economic, and political systems?

Question: How is your family impacted by a changing climate? What do you see as your future in five years, ten years, twenty years?

Engage – Sing It Loud (30 minutes): In a small group, compose lyrics using the main terms or concepts you've learned above, and sing these along to a familiar melody or song. Share with everyone.

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Question: What does resilience look like to you? How have human beings demonstrated resilience in response to existential threats in the past?

Question: Thinking speculatively, what do you see as our possible alternatives to adaptation?

Engage - Living Without It (15 Minutes): Often times, adapting to new, uneasy situations requires great personal sacrifice. As our environments continue to change, we likely will have to give up many things we hold dear to us. For a few minutes, think about some of the things that you cherish that our changing climate may threaten. Then, take 15 minutes to write about how you can live without these things in order to adapt -- in order to survive. Afterward, share your entry with at least one other person.



## Section FIVE – The Challenge of a Changing Climate

Question: When you consider a changing climate, what is the difference between a challenge we face or a problem to solve?

Question: How do preexisting social, political, and economic challenges intersect with the challenges associated with our changing climate?

Engage - Addressing Change (30 minutes): Consider, for a moment, a time where you were faced with a great, personal challenge. How did you process that challenge internally? What steps did you take to overcome that challenge? What did you learn about your own capacity for resilience? Consider sharing in groups of three, each taking 3 minutes to explain their position. After that, discuss whether you see any patterns of response between the three. Finally, do these patterns tell us something specific about our capacities to address challenges in the world?

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Question: Why is solving the climate crisis such a complex challenge?

Question: Name two or three pieces of evidence in your estimation that tells you people are capable of solving wicked challenges?

Engage - Sum It Up (15 Minutes): Comb through one article from this section and identify what you see to be the biggest challenges associated with solving the climate crisis. Afterward, take five minutes to write down your thoughts. When you are finished, find a partner who focused on a different article than you, and swap thoughts. What did you learn from one another?

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Question: In light of a changing climate, is it possible to address social challenges without addressing climate change? Why or why not?

Question: What challenges do you see associated with a changing climate?

Engage - Write and Reflect (20 Minutes): For twenty minutes, reflect on and respond to this prompt: Across the Earth, people are working at local, national, and international levels to address social challenges. If evidence suggests that a changing climate *will* exacerbate these challenges, why do you think there is such a reluctance to prioritize climate justice? Share your thoughts with at least one other person.

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Question: How would you respond if the Earth was no longer able to provide us with space and resources?

Engage - When Disaster Strikes (10 Minutes): For ten minutes, reflect on these questions and write out your answers: What would you prioritize in the midst of a climate emergency? What would you take with you? Who would you help? Who should be helped? Who would help *you*? When you finish writing, share your responses with at least one other person.



## Section SIX – Response to a Changing Climate

Question: How do we respond to a changing climate? What does responding mean to you?

Question: What can we learn from others in our effort to respond? What can others learn from you?

Engage – Free Write (30 Minutes): Take 30 minutes to respond to these three questions: How do *you* wish to respond to our changing climate? In what state do you wish to see our Earth? What would an ideal future for our Earth look like to you? What steps can you take to help achieve that future?

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Question: Do these responses to climate change reflect your voice? Your interests? Your concerns? How?

Engage - Reach Out (20 Minutes): Take 20 minutes to draft a letter to an international organization that has or is currently addressing the state of our climate. As you write your letter, keep these questions in mind: What about the organization’s response to the climate crisis do you appreciate? What areas of concern do you wish they would put more energy into addressing? When you’re finished, either send your letter to the organization or share the contents of your letter with at least one other person.

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Question: Do we have a spiritual obligation to protect the Earth?

Question: Why is it necessary to incorporate religious and spiritual traditions into climate action? What can they teach us about restoring, preserving, and, perhaps most importantly, maintaining a healthy relationship with the Earth?

Engage - Letter to Religica (15 Minutes): How would you like to see Religica use its platform to respond to our changing climate? Write a brief letter offering your insight. When you are finished, share your letter with three peers. Then, email your letter to [info@religica.org](mailto:info@religica.org) to share your ideas with us. We’ll write you back!

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Question: in regard to our changing climate, what place should belief and disbelief hold in the climate conversation?

Question: How can you fight the spread of climate misinformation in your community?

Engage - Talk It Out (25 Minutes): With at least four peers, divide yourselves into two groups of two. Then, consider this statement: “climate science has not provided enough evidence for me



to believe that our climate is changing.” With personal opinions aside, each group of two will take a stance; either in agreement or disagreement of this statement. Each group will take 10 minutes to build an argument in support of their position, and another 10 minutes to debate with the opposing group. After your debate, come back together as a group of four and debrief for five minutes.

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Question: In what ways are communities across the world responding to our changing climate?

Question: Is your local community making an effort to restore and preserve the Earth? If so, in what ways? If not, how do you wish your local community would take action?

Engage - Tell Your Story (20 Minutes): Do you have a story you would like to share with Religica’s visitors? If so, we would love to hear your voice! Take twenty minutes to write about what you, your friends, and your community are doing to revitalize the Earth. When you finish, send your story to [info@religica.org](mailto:info@religica.org).