



**Impacts of Viewing *An Inconvenient Truth* on the Information-Gathering Behaviors of Teenagers Regarding Climate Change Topics**  
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### Abstract

The purpose of this research was to investigate whether or not viewing the documentary film *An Inconvenient Truth* caused a change in the information-gathering behaviors of teenagers regarding climate change topics. A mixed-methods design was utilized to both quantitatively and qualitatively understand any change that occurred in behaviors before and after viewing the film. Surveys were administered to participants before and after attending a viewing of *AIT* to track any change in the frequency of information-gathering behaviors, and interviews were conducted post-viewing to identify why any changes did or did not occur. Statistical analysis of survey responses and thematic analysis of interviews revealed that, while no statistically significant change in information-gathering specifically occurred, participants were successfully able to identify the persuasion tactics used in the film and felt that some level of change happened in their behaviors. Ultimately, the most prominent effect of the film was a greater awareness among participants about climate change, its timescale, and the extent of its effects. The results of this study should persuade documentary filmmakers to reevaluate the effectiveness of their tactics in changing the behaviors of their audience, as well as spark further research into the effectiveness of *An Inconvenient Truth* at inciting other specific types of behavior. Limitations to this study include a non-generalizable sample size, current events regarding climate change coinciding with the execution of data collection for this study, and inability to limit certain types of biases in the responses of participants. Future research should utilize larger sample sizes and focus on the frequency of other types of behavior resulting from *An Inconvenient Truth*.

**Keywords:** Climate Change, An Inconvenient Truth, Information-Gathering, Teenagers

## Introduction

*An Inconvenient Truth* (AIT) is a 2006 documentary directed by Davis Guggenheim detailing former Vice President and climate activist Al Gore's mission to educate the public about the global climate crisis. The film was remarkably successful both critically and financially, grossing \$24 million and garnering a variety of awards (Yeo et al., 2018). More importantly, AIT is widely recognized as sparking the modern debate over climate change, setting climate agendas across the world, and influencing global politicians, companies, and environmental activists for decades (McLagan & McKee, 2012, pp. 304–319). The issue of climate change has historically been of relatively little concern to the general public (Beattie et al., 2011), so Al Gore and his team set out to make the crisis seem more important to a greater number of people through an easily accessible type of media: film. Yet almost two decades after the release of *An Inconvenient Truth*, relatively little action has been taken on climate change, and people continue to contribute to the issue despite knowing it will harm them personally in the long term (Lyons, 2019). Therefore, it is critical to re-examine the methods of persuasion used in AIT and other similar climate documentaries for their effects on the environmental behaviors of individuals who view them. I intend to study the climate-change-related behaviors of teenagers before and after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth* in order to gauge its effectiveness in inciting meaningful change in the behaviors of viewers.

## Literature Review

### Elements of Persuasion in Documentary

Documentaries take on a variety of methods to increase the concern of their audience on a particular issue and motivate them to create change. Narratives – a form of storytelling utilizing accounts of connected events (Howell, 2012) – have been found to be just as effective as statistics at creating change in individual behavior, if not more so (Darville- Sanders et al., 2022). Therefore, many documentaries utilize linear storytelling (Howell, 2012) or disconnected “mini-narratives” (Lyons, 2019) to convey information. AIT specifically cuts between “mini-narratives” focused on Gore's life experiences and clips from his climate change lectures emphasizing statistics and humanity's past, present, and future regarding the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. This method has been generally effective in empowering viewers (Darville-Sanders et al., 2022), motivating viewers to change their behaviors, and bringing emotional value to the climate crisis (Beattie et al., 2011).

Additionally, documentaries have used disaster-framing - emphasizing the disastrous consequences of climate change – to attempt to change their audience's behavior, evoking mixed reactions from the scholarly community. AIT uses disaster-framing recurrently to raise the audience's urgency to act on climate change, including the use of CGI visualizations of melting ice packs and diagrams of the impact of sea level rise on famous cities (Lyons, 2019). This tactic is used to present climate change as a moral, even apocalyptic, issue (Ingram & Narraway, 2013, pp. 241–256), and to frighten the audience into modifying their climate change behaviors. Some scholars claim that historical attempts to “shock” an audience into action have been counterproductive, with little to no success (Lyons, 2019). Others have found that disaster-framing in environmental films actually does not disempower viewers, and has little recorded effect on behaviors (Howell, 2012). While the effect of disaster-framing on audiences is disputed, this tactic is an important part of how documentaries attempt to persuade viewers to change their beliefs and behaviors.

## ***An Inconvenient Truth*: Discourse and Controversies**

*An Inconvenient Truth* is already the subject of significant amounts of academic research, particularly regarding the methods it uses to motivate its audience and the accuracy of the science presented within it. Researchers have already found *AIT* to be effective in changing the attitudes of audience members, specifically students, towards climate change (van Valkengoed & Steg, 2019). However, few researchers have focused on whether or not audience members act on their attitudes or behavioral intentions after viewing a climate documentary such as *AIT*.

Despite being successful and widely popular, *AIT* is not free from controversy, as some scholars and climate scientists have expressed concern about the legitimacy of the science used in the film. When discussing some of the most dire effects of climate change, such as melting glaciers and rising sea levels, the film fails to state the lengthy time scale of these changes (Steig, 2007) with the hopes of making the issue of climate change seem more apocalyptic (Ingram & Narraway, 2013, pp. 241–256). Additionally, many of the effects mentioned in the film, including the increasing spread of disease and glacial melt, are known to be affected by factors besides climate change - something the documentary does not mention (Steig, 2007).

Regardless of these issues, scholars argue it would be impossible to fully explain every claim made in the film in the given timespan, and that the purpose of the film in the first place is not to be a scientific explanation of climate change, but to bring emotional value to the climate crisis (Ingram & Narraway, 2013, pp. 241–256). Even Steig (2007), the professor who questioned the legitimacy of *AIT*'s messaging, conceded that the science in the film is largely accurate except for a few nuanced points.

## **Information-Gathering Behavior**

Researchers have yet to take *An Inconvenient Truth* and examine whether or not the full documentary truly elicits a specific, important type of action: information-gathering. Yeo et al. (2018) identified information-gathering behavior as one of three key outcomes relating to how individuals utilize information presented in a documentary, in addition to information-exchanging and information-promoting. The behavior entails gathering information about a documentary's content and using it as a further resource in climate-related actions. The ability to incite information-gathering behavior is key to a documentary's true capacity to create change; in order to change their behaviors, individuals must first become educated in what these modifications look like and how to implement them. This educational process requires gathering information beyond just the documentary that introduces individuals to a topic. It has been found that inciting information-gathering behavior in audiences is a more effective way of creating change than simply telling an audience directly what to change (Dósa & Russ, 2019), and therefore it is critical that climate change documentaries convince their audiences to engage in this behavior.

There is a sizable body of research finding that documentaries can be successful in changing the behaviors, behavioral intentions, and views of their audience. Darville-Sanders et al. (2022) reported how a documentary about the effects of HPV played a role in half of viewers being vaccinated against the disease. This success in creating behavioral change can be applied to climate documentaries as well; Geoffrey Beattie et al. (2011) found that viewers shown clips of *AIT* felt empowered and motivated to take action on climate change. Despite there being a large body of knowledge supporting this finding, there is little research on climate documentaries' efficacy in creating information-gathering behavior. Yeo et al. (2018) identified

whether or not students were likely to engage in information-gathering behavior based on different types of messaging, but not if viewing a documentary was, in practice, able to truly incite these changes in viewers. Because information-gathering behavior is such an important behavior for documentary films to be able to initiate, it is important to understand the efficacy of their capacity to do so, what elements cause the change in behavior, and the effects of that change.

### Gap in the Body of Knowledge

Many scholars have called for further research regarding the effects and influence of documentary films, climate change-related behaviors, and combinations of the two. One of the largest evident gaps in the existing body of knowledge regarding this topic is how most studies only use change in intended behavior or attitudes to measure the effect of a documentary film, rather than truly measuring the effect a documentary has on behavior (Janpol & Dilts, 2016). Additionally, long-term behavior changes resulting from climate change communications have already been described in the body of knowledge (Howell, 2012), while short-term changes in behavior still need to be investigated. Most importantly, there is a lack of understanding regarding whether or not information-gathering behaviors are significantly impacted as a result of viewing *AIT*, specifically in teenagers. As teenagers will face the most dire consequences of climate change and have been raised in a climate discourse shaped by *AIT*, it is important to know whether or not the methods of persuasion used in the film are effective in reaching them and ultimately changing their behaviors. Therefore, I will be investigating how likely teenagers are to participate in information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics after viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

## Methodology

### Participants

A sample of teenagers between the ages of thirteen and seventeen were gathered from several Southern California high schools via social media advertising and announcements in classrooms. Convenience sampling was utilized due to finite resources and limited time to gather participants; however, potential candidates were screened for eligibility via an interest form in order to ensure the best sample possible was selected. Candidates were required to meet the following inclusionary requirements: having never viewed *AIT* previously, being between thirteen and seventeen years of age from December 2024 to February 2025, and being available on select dates. In total, twelve teenagers with a mean age of 16.3 years were selected to participate in the study. Of those selected, six participants identified as female and six identified as male, with four being high school Seniors, five being high school Juniors, and three being high school Sophomores.

### Procedures

This study was conducted in two parts to answer the question effectively utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data. Firstly, participants were invited to either an in-person or virtual viewing of *An Inconvenient Truth*. A survey was administered to attendants immediately before viewing the film in order to gain a base-line measurement of their climate change information-gathering behaviors. The virtual viewing consisted of research subjects viewing the film on their own devices and joining a Zoom video-call with the researcher, who monitored them to ensure they watched the film in its entirety. Participants who attended the in-person viewing

were provided with refreshments, while those who viewed the film virtually were reimbursed for the cost of renting the film. A mean of 17 days after viewing *A/T*, participants were invited back to complete a near-identical survey to measure any shift in their information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change since viewing the documentary. Subsequently, a semi-structured interview was conducted in which participants discussed why they believe changes in information-gathering behavior did or did not occur.

### **Survey and Interview Questions**

The surveys distributed to participants before and after viewing *A/T* asked them to identify how often they engage in different types of information-gathering activities per month in order to gain the greatest possible understanding of their information-gathering routines from numerical data. The activities included were taken largely from Denise E. Agosto and Sandra Hughes-Hassell's 2005 study of the information-seeking behaviors of teenagers. The most frequently utilized behaviors recorded in this study were included in both surveys, as were some behaviors not identified in that study to make the list more reflective of behaviors engaged in by modern teenagers (ie engaging with social media, listening to podcasts, etc). These survey questions can be found in Appendices 3 & 4. The first survey administered asked participants how often they engaged in each behavior on average per month, while the second asked them how many times they had engaged in each behavior specifically within the last two-three weeks.

A semi-structured interview was conducted in addition to completion of post- and pre-viewing surveys. A specific sequence of questions was devised by the researcher to determine quickly whether or not a change in the participant's behavior occurred, and gather as much information as possible based on their perspective. Interview questions can be found in Appendix 5. Follow-up questions were asked when necessary to encourage clarity and elaboration in the responses of interviewees. If the film seemed to have had a significant impact on the participant's information-gathering behaviors, the interview focused on what the film did successfully to incite those changes and its broader effect on perception of climate change topics. If not, participants were asked about what they believed the film could have done to improve its climate change messaging and more effectively incite these changes.

### **Rationale**

Both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods were utilized in order to best capture any changes in the behavior of participants. While a quantitative analysis of the frequency of certain actions over time was necessary to definitively understand whether or not the documentary had any influence on information-gathering behavior, such an analysis could not elaborate on why these changes occurred, or how teenagers interacted more broadly with climate change topics after viewing *A/T*. Therefore, the semi-structured interview was introduced as part of the methodology. Semi-structured interviews allow the researcher to follow different directions as new information emerges and for a reflective dialogue on the part of the interviewee to be formed (Magaldi & Berler, 2020). As such, this type of interview was included to gain the greatest understanding possible about the assumedly very different experiences individuals had with information-gathering behavior after viewing *A/T*.

### **Ethics**

Several precautions were taken to ensure research subjects were safe and anonymous when participating in this study. As all participants were below the age of eighteen, both assent



and parental consent forms were issued and collected from all participants before the study began. These documents informed both participants and their guardians of the study and its procedures, their rights as study participants, and steps that would be taken to ensure confidentiality. Assent and consent forms can be viewed in full in Appendices 1 & 2. The names of participants were not released as part of the study, and any audio tapes taken during post-viewing interviews were destroyed as soon as they were no longer of use to the researcher.

Films about climate change, especially those that utilize disaster-framing, have been known to cause anxiety, fear, depression, and other negative emotions broadly referred to as “climate anxiety” (Howell, 2012). In order to help participants tackle any negative emotions stemming from viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*, the researcher provided subjects with a list of climate anxiety resources from multiple universities and environmental organizations immediately after viewing *AIT*. At their post-viewing interview, participants were asked to report if they had utilized any of the provided climate anxiety resources; only one (Participant K) responded affirmatively.

Social desirability bias and self-reporting bias are generally limitations of studies measuring climate behavior. In order to limit these biases to the greatest extent, participants were reassured that they should respond to survey and interview questions as accurately as possible, their responses would be entirely anonymous, and that there was no “right” answer to any question. Interview and survey questions were reviewed by peers of the researcher to ensure they contained no biased wording, and the researcher adjusted questions based on feedback. Furthermore, research subjects were not initially informed that their information-gathering behavior specifically was being studied, only their broader environmental behaviors. After the post-viewing interview, participants were debriefed and informed that their information-gathering behavior specifically had been recorded and studied.

## Findings

### Statistical Analysis

Sets of behaviors for all participants were collected and paired t-tests were conducted on each behavior for all participants before and after viewing *AIT*. For the purposes of this study, a significant p-value resulting from a t-test is below 0.05; a p-value below this would signal that there is less than a 5% chance that the null hypothesis is correct. The null hypothesis for these tests was that information-gathering behaviors retained the same frequency before and after viewing *AIT*, while the alternative hypothesis was that there was a significant increase in the frequency of engaging in information-gathering behaviors after viewing *AIT*. As the study consisted of less than 30 participants, tests for normality utilizing histograms and normal quantile plots were conducted to ensure the data was normally distributed and paired t-tests could be administered.

Statistical analysis of the behaviors reported by participants found there to be no significant increase in information-gathering behaviors after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*. The behaviors with the lowest p-values, indicating being the closest to a statistically significant increase, were seeking out information via video content (0.067), new sources (0.093), and print sources (0.1); however, none of these behaviors were below the 0.05 threshold to be considered statistically significant. Additionally, when survey participants were asked to identify who they were most likely to have conversations with about climate change topics, there was no significant difference between who they identified before and after viewing *AIT*. The majority of

participants reported being most likely to have conversations with their friends about climate change topics both before and after exposure to the film.

### **Thematic Analysis**

Interviews with participants were transcribed using the Happy Scribe transcription service, and edited to correct any errors. Interviews ranged in length from 6 to 11 minutes, with the mean length being 7 minutes and 31 seconds. Each transcription was codified for major points of discussion, and the codes were organized into several overarching categories. While each participant had a unique perspective regarding the effects of *An Inconvenient Truth* on behavior, several recurring themes could be identified across multiple participants' stances.

#### ***Change/Constant in Information-Gathering Behavior***

Seven participants (A, D, E, G, J, K, and L) stated that they believed there had been some degree of change in their information-gathering behaviors after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*. These changes occurred almost exclusively in the frequency of interacting with climate change topics in new sources, social media, and interpersonal conversations; Participant K discussed how they sought out previously seen video content after viewing the film. Four of these participants stated that they made an intentional effort after viewing the film to gather more information and more broadly change their behaviors, while three identified how they didn't intend to change their behaviors and it happened organically. Participant L asserted that "it was just a result of being exposed to that much information about it. I wanted to seek out more, so I just naturally clicked towards it."

Alternatively, five participants (B, C, F, H, and I) identified no change in their information-gathering behaviors after viewing the documentary, with varying reasons as to why they believed no change occurred. Some cited a lack of personal experience with climate change as a reason why their behavior did not change; Participant B stated that "I'm a little more scared now, but I still, since I don't feel the effects happening to me directly, I still don't care enough to make a change about it, which sucks." Others discussed how they believed a documentary was not a strong enough vehicle to create behavioral change as a limitation to their change in behavior, with Participant H stating that "It has to come from the top, aka from politicians... those are people that we... listen to. Hearing information, and not just information, but hearing the actions taking place from those people."

#### ***Change in Non-Information-Gathering Behavior***

A number of participants identified changes in their broader behaviors relating to climate change and contributed these changes to *AIT*, with varying levels of intensity and duration. Participant K recalled how they recycled waste immediately after viewing the film, but stated that this could have just been a short-term effect of the documentary's messaging. Participant C discussed how they're "a victim of using plastic water bottles quite frequently. And I've been recently using my Hydroflask a lot more just because I've thought about it. When some of my friends, they're littering and stuff, I'm more self-conscious and I actually realize, oh, hey, I should probably pick that up for them or tell them." Perhaps the most significant change in non-information-gathering behavior was identified by Participant L, who began a regular donation subscription to an environmental nonprofit in the days after viewing *AIT*.



### ***Greater Awareness of Climate Change***

One of the most prevalent recurring themes in interviews with participants was how they were made more aware of climate change, its effects, and the impact individuals and society have on its progression. Several participants identified that one of the largest personal impacts of the film was their gaining of knowledge regarding the details of climate change, while others stated that the timescale and personal impact of climate change were more specific pieces of information gained from the film. Others became more aware of the impact their daily actions were having on climate change; Participant G identified feeling pride in driving an electric vehicle and having solar panels installed on their house, while Participant I began considering the impact of their car's fuel efficiency on their carbon footprint. While viewing *A/T* may not have sparked widespread or significant information-gathering behavior, participants were still able to come to a new understanding about climate change via their experience with the film.

### ***Identification of Successful Tactics***

When asked what *A/T* did successfully to communicate climate change and incite information-gathering behaviors, participants identified several methods of persuasion used in the film as being effective. Despite the existing body of knowledge coming to the conclusion that statistical evidence would not be as effective as other methods of persuasion in creating change in viewers, half of all participants (B, D, E, G, I, and J) identified the statistical evidence and graphs within the film as being successful communicators of climate change. Five participants discussed how they found emotional imagery within the film to be highly effective; Participants A and G both identified the melting habitats of polar bears as motivating them to change their behaviors or gather more information. Four participants discussed how Al Gore utilizing a scissor lift to demonstrate the rapidly increasing projected levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was a particularly effective part of the film; this is one of the greatest examples of how the film combines statistical evidence with imagery to persuade the audience. Only one participant, Participant A, identified narrative storytelling as a method of persuasion they noticed to be effective within the film. While none discussed disaster-framing explicitly as being an effective behavior-changing tactic, several participants mentioned how climate change now felt like a much more urgent and personal issue, meaning the disaster-framing elements of the film were most likely successful.

### ***Improvements of Messaging***

Participants who identified no change in their information-gathering behaviors after viewing *A/T* were asked what parts of the film they believed could have been improved in order to more successfully incite changes in behavior. Some discussed particular moments within the film that could have been improved; Participant C stated that they believed the film had nothing to captivate the audience, and how "the intro was very slow at first and, yes, it's important, but I feel like it had no hook and there was no premises to draw the reader or audience in." Others identified more general aspects of the film that could have been refined to increase the chance of changing behavior after viewing the film, as Participant F did when they discussed how the film could have provided more specific information about what actions could be taken to reduce the impact of climate change.

## Age of AIT

Several participants discussed the age of *An Inconvenient Truth* when asked how the film impacted their perception of climate change. However, age was never discussed as a hindrance to a change in behavior, and was instead identified as a reason why climate change felt more urgent. Participant D stated that because the issue of climate change was already so disastrous in 2005, the problem had likely only worsened since then. Participant K added to this sentiment, stating “He was talking about how in just the next few years, this is what happens, and we’re already past those next few years. Those big changes that he was talking about haven’t happened, which means we are at [that] point.”

## Limitations

It is important to address the limitations of the findings of this study. As a high school student with limited time and resources conducted this study, acquiring a representative sample of all teenagers would be infeasible, and convenience sampling was utilized to garner a small number of participants. Therefore, the results of this study cannot be generalized to the greater population, and future research should utilize random sampling methods and a greater number of participants to ensure generalizability. Additionally, while attempts were made to limit bias in the responses of participants, social desirability bias and self-reporting bias may have still occurred, and the answers of participants to both survey and interview questions may not be entirely accurate. Finally, the information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics of participants may have been altered by outside factors, as there was no way to control for outside events occurring between participants viewing the film and their post-viewing survey and interview. As data collection took place between December of 2024 and February of 2025 in Southern California, two events were mentioned by several participants as motivating them to gather more information on climate change in addition to viewing *AIT*: the incoming of the Trump administration, and the spike in wildfires affecting Los Angeles and surrounding areas. While no participants were directly impacted by a wildfire during the study, the greater effects on the communities of Southern California could have motivated them to seek out more information regarding the driving factor of more frequent wildfires, climate change. At least one participant (Participant C) identified starting a unit in their English class which required them to engage more with climate change information, and several participants cited engaging in climate change discussions within science classes more often.

## Conclusion

This research paper set out to discover whether or not the film *An Inconvenient Truth* was able to alter the information-gathering behaviors of teenagers who viewed it. The statistical analysis of frequency of behaviors found there to be no significant increase in information-gathering behaviors in teenagers after viewing the film; however, thematic analyses of interviews with participants indicated that teenagers generally had a more nuanced response to the film. While several participants identified some kind of change in their information-gathering behaviors after viewing the film, these changes were not large or sustained enough to be picked up as significant by a statistical test. Participants were largely able to successfully identify tactics the film used to engage them in the climate crisis, and though the methods of persuasion caused them to have greater concern about climate change, this increased concern did not necessarily correlate with increased action.

This paper reaffirms the findings of Geoffrey Beattie and other researchers at Edge Hill University, who reported that clips of *An Inconvenient Truth* were effective in changing the views and attitudes of viewers towards climate change (Beattie et al., 2011). While Gabrielle Darville-Sanders, Janne McInnes, and Kelsey Schwarz identified narrative storytelling as being more effective at creating change in behaviors than statistics (Darville-Sanders et al., 2022), more participants identified statistics as being a driver for their change of behavior than narrative storytelling. Furthermore, the findings of this paper stand in tandem with those of Anne M. van Valkengoed and Linda Steg, who identified that an increase in knowledge about climate change does not correlate with a change in behaviors; while participants identified becoming more aware about climate change, its timescale, and its effects, no significant change in information-gathering behaviors could be observed after viewing *AIT*.

As the results of this study are non-generalizable due to a limited sample size, further studies are needed to conclude whether or not *An Inconvenient Truth* is truly effective in changing the frequency of information-gathering behaviors among teenagers. This study should serve as a pilot for both studies with larger sample sizes and those measuring the effect of viewing *AIT* on other types of behavior, specifically information-promoting and information-exchanging, both detailed by Sara Yeo and her team at the University of Utah (Yeo et al., 2018). Ultimately, this investigation into the impacts of viewing a documentary on the behaviors of viewers should serve as a wakeup call to documentary filmmakers: if the tactics used in *An Inconvenient Truth*, a cornerstone of climate change communications, are not effective at eliciting changes in behaviors, filmmakers should reevaluate their methods of persuasion and develop new strategies to implore audiences to change their behavior. While *An Inconvenient Truth* may not be entirely effective in eliciting a change in behavior from viewers, the film will always remain a critical step towards creating films that are maximally impactful.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Informed Assent Form

#### Assent to Participate in a Research Study

Researcher: [REDACTED]

#### Introduction

- You are being asked to be in a research study of changes in climate change behaviors resulting from viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.
- You were selected as a possible participant because you will be between the ages of 13-17 between December 2024 and February 2025, and expressed interest in being part of a research study.
- We ask that you read this form and ask any questions that you may have before participating in this study.

#### Purpose of Study

- The purpose of the study is to identify changes in specific types of climate change behaviors resulting from viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.
- Ultimately, this research may be presented to College Board as a research paper and presented in other publications as a research paper.

#### Description of the Study Procedures

- If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following things:
- Participate in a survey assessing climate change-related behaviors pre-viewing
- Attend a screening of the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* in a controlled environment, provided by the researcher
- Participate in a survey assessing climate change-related behaviors 1 month post-viewing
- Attend an interview with the researcher to discuss changes in climate change-related behaviors 1 month post-viewing

#### Risks/Discomforts of Being in this Study

- The study has foreseeable risks. Teenagers are likely to feel the negative effects of climate change in the future, and therefore the film's content could be unsettling to participants. Participants will be provided with a list of resources to deal with "climate anxiety" that may be caused by the film immediately after viewing.

#### Benefits of Being in the Study

- Participants will be provided with refreshments/snacks at the screening of the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, as well as during their post-viewing interview 1 month after the viewing.

#### Confidentiality

- The records of this study will be kept strictly confidential. Research records will be kept in a locked file, and all electronic information will be coded and secured using a password protected file. Audio tapes will be taken during interviews with participants. Only the researcher will have access to these files, and they will be erased after analysis. We will not





include any information in any report we may publish that would make it possible to identify you as a participant.

### Payments

- You/your guardian will receive no payments

### Right to Refuse or Withdraw

- The decision to participate in this study is entirely up to you and your guardian. Your guardian is welcome to observe the interview if you wish. You may refuse to take part in the study *at any time* without affecting your relationship with the investigator of this study. You have the right not to answer any single question, as well as to withdraw completely from the interview at any point during the process; additionally, you have the right to request that the interviewer not use any of the interview material.

### Right to Ask Questions and Report Concerns

- You have the right to ask questions about this research study and to have those questions answered by me before, during or after the research. If you have any further questions about the study, at any time feel free to contact me, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] or by telephone at [REDACTED]. If you like, a summary of the results of the study will be sent to you. If you have any other concerns about your rights as a research participant that have not been answered by the investigators, you may contact [REDACTED], AP Research teacher and Chair of the [REDACTED] IRB at [REDACTED].
- If you have any problems or concerns that occur as a result of your participation, you can report them to [REDACTED] at the email above.

### Consent

- Your signature below indicates that you have decided to participate as a research subject for this study, and that you have read and understood the information provided above. You will be given a signed and dated copy of this form to keep.

Participant's Name:	_____	Date	_____
		:	
Investigator's		Date	
Signature:	_____	:	_____



## Appendix 2: Informed Consent Form

### Parental Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Researcher: [REDACTED]

#### Introduction

- Your child is being asked to be in a research study of changes in climate change behaviors resulting from viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.
- They were selected as a possible participant because they will be between the ages of 13-17 between December 2024 and February 2025, and expressed interest in being part of a research study.
- We ask that you read this form and ask any questions that you may have before allowing your child to participate in this study.

#### Purpose of Study

- The purpose of the study is to identify changes in specific types of climate change behaviors resulting from viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.
- Ultimately, this research may be presented to College Board as a research paper and presented in other publications as a research paper.

#### Description of the Study Procedures

- If you decide to allow your child to participate in this study, they will be asked to do the following things:
- Participate in a survey assessing climate change-related behaviors pre-treatment
- Attend a screening of the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* in a controlled environment, provided by the researcher
- Participate in a survey assessing climate change-related behaviors 1 month post-viewing
- Attend an interview with the researcher to discuss changes in climate change-related behaviors 1 month post-viewing

#### Risks/Discomforts of Being in this Study

- The study has foreseeable risks. Teenagers are likely to feel the negative effects of climate change in the future, and therefore the film's content could be unsettling to participants. Participants will be provided with a list of resources to deal with "climate anxiety" that may be caused by the film immediately after viewing.

#### Benefits of Being in the Study

- Participants will be provided with refreshments/snacks at the screening of the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, as well as during their interview 1 month after the viewing.

#### Confidentiality

- The records of this study will be kept strictly confidential. Research records will be kept in a locked file, and all electronic information will be coded and secured using a password protected file. Audio tapes will be taken during interviews with participants. Only the researcher will have access to these files, and they will be erased after analysis. We will not



include any information in any report we may publish that would make it possible to identify your child.

### Payments

- You/your child will receive no payments

### Right to Refuse or Withdraw

- The decision to participate in this study is entirely up to you and your child. You are welcome to observe the interview if you wish. Your child may refuse to take part in the study *at any time* without affecting your relationship with the investigators of this study. Your child has the right not to answer any single question, as well as to withdraw completely from the interview at any point during the process; additionally, you have the right to request that the interviewer not use any of the interview material.

### Right to Ask Questions and Report Concerns

- You have the right to ask questions about this research study and to have those questions answered by me before, during or after the research. If you have any further questions about the study, at any time feel free to contact me, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] or by telephone at [REDACTED]. If you like, a summary of the results of the study will be sent to you. If you have any other concerns about your rights as a research participant that have not been answered by the investigators, you may contact [REDACTED], AP Research teacher and Chair of the [REDACTED] IRB at [REDACTED].
- If you have any problems or concerns that occur as a result of your participation, you can report them to [REDACTED] at the email above.

### Consent

- Your signature below indicates that you have decided to allow your child to participate as a research subject for this study, and that you have read and understood the information provided above. You will be given a signed and dated copy of this form to keep.

Parent/Guardian

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

:

Investigator's

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

:



## Appendix 3: Pre-Viewing Survey Questions

### Introduction:

- The purpose of this survey is to measure climate change behaviors prior to viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability and complete the survey in its entirety. For questions 1 and 3-8, indicate the whole number you feel is most accurately answers the question.

### Definitions:

- Climate Change Topics: Information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns
    - May include both anthropogenic (man-made) and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, personal actions to reduce impact on climate change
1. How often do you engage in personal conversation with others with the intent of gaining a better understanding of climate change topics? (per month, on average)
  2. If you answered a number greater than 0 to question 1, please indicate who you are most likely to engage in this type of conversation with.
    - a. Friend
    - b. Teacher/School Employee
    - c. Parent
    - d. Sibling
    - e. Other (indicate who)
  3. How often do you seek out television, films, or other video content that will aid you in gaining a better understanding of climate change topics? (Per month, on average)
  4. How often do you seek out podcasts, radio, or other audio content that will aid you in gaining a better understanding of climate change topics? (Per month, on average)
  5. How often do you seek out books, texts, or other print content that will aid you in gaining a better understanding of climate change topics? (Per month, on average)
  6. How often do you engage with social media posts regarding climate change topics in order to better understand that topic? (Per month, on average)
  7. How often do you search for information on climate change topics via web browser in order to better understand that topic? (Per month, on average)
  8. How often do you engage with news sources in order to gain a better understanding of climate change topics? (Per month, on average)
  9. If you engage with a different type of information source in order to gain a better understanding of climate change topics, please indicate the source and how many times per month on average you engage with that source with that purpose.



## Appendix 4: Post-Viewing Survey Questions

### Introduction:

- The purpose of this survey is to measure climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability and complete the survey in its entirety. For questions 1 and 3-8, indicate the whole number you feel most accurately answers the question.

### Definitions:

- Climate Change Topics: Information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns
    - May include both anthropogenic (man-made) and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, personal actions to reduce impact on climate change
1. How often have you engaged in personal conversation with others with the intent of gaining a better understanding of climate change topics over the last month?
  2. If you answered a number greater than 0 to question 1, please indicate who you were most likely to engage in this type of conversation with.
    - a. Friend
    - b. Teacher/School Employee
    - c. Parent
    - d. Sibling
    - e. Other (indicate who)
  3. How often have you sought out television, films, or other video content to aid you in gaining a better understanding of climate change topics over the last month?
  4. How often have you sought out podcasts, radio, or other audio content to aid you in gaining a better understanding of climate change topics over the last month?
  5. How often have you sought out books, texts, or other print content to aid you in gaining a better understanding of climate change topics over the last month?
  6. How often have you engaged with social media posts regarding climate change topics in order to better understand that topic over the last month?
  7. How often have you searched for information on climate change topics via web browser in order to better understand that topic over the last month?
  8. How often have you engaged with news sources in order to gain a better understanding of climate change topics over the last month?
  9. If you have engaged with a different type of information source in order to gain a better understanding of climate change topics over the last month, please indicate the source



and how many times you have engaged with that source with that purpose over the last month.





## Appendix 5: Post-Viewing Interview Questions & Debrief Statement

### Introduction:

- The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question(s). There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed.

### Definitions:

- Information-Gathering Behavior: Actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic
  - Includes seeking out information via social media, film/tv, books, radio/podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships
- Climate Change Topics: Information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns
  - May include both anthropogenic (man-made) and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, personal actions to reduce impact on climate change

1. Did you notice a change in your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*? If so, how?
2. Did you explicitly intend to change your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*? If so, how?
3. [If answered affirmatively to 1 and/or 2] Do you believe that viewing *An Inconvenient Truth* influenced your change in information-gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?
4. [If answered affirmatively to 3] What did *An Inconvenient Truth* do successfully to create messaging that impacted/changed your information-gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics?
5. [If answered affirmatively to 3] Which of your information-gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing *An Inconvenient Truth* (includes, but is not limited to, seeking information on social media, in video, print, and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships)?
6. [If answered negatively to 1 and 2, or 3] To what extent do you believe *An Inconvenient Truth* was a successful communicator of climate change topics? How could this messaging have been improved?



7. How did *An Inconvenient Truth* and subsequent [change or constant] in your information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?
8. Did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*?
9. [If answered affirmatively to 9] Do you believe the aforementioned changes will be long-term, or were they a short-term effect of viewing the documentary?
10. Did you utilize the “climate anxiety” resources provided after viewing the film? If so, do you believe using these resources affected your information-gathering behavior regarding climate change topics?
11. Are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of the documentary, or any remaining thoughts you have relating to *An Inconvenient Truth* or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

#### Debrief Statement

- Thank you for your participation in this research study. I will now disclose to you the purpose of this study was to specifically measure changes in information-gathering behavior relating to climate change topics. You were not explicitly informed of this earlier as to ensure your information-gathering behaviors would not be purposefully altered. At this time, no more information regarding your behavior will be recorded and your participation in the study is over. Your participation in this study will remain anonymous and no identifying information will be published or otherwise released. Please do not disclose the information in this interview and debrief statement until at least 2 weeks after this interview, as to ensure the behaviors of other participants remain unaltered. You may receive the results of the study upon request after the paper is completed, and if you have any outstanding questions at any point, please email me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. You will receive an emailed version of this debrief statement. Thank you once again for your participation.



## Appendix 6: Pre-Survey & Post-Survey Data

Participant	Pre 1	Pre 2	Pre 3	Pre 4	Pre 5
A	3	Coworker	1	0	2
B	2	Friend	1	0	0
C	1	Teacher	0	0	1
D	3	Friend	3	3	1
E	2	Friend	0	0	0
F	0	N/A	0	0	0
G	5	Friend	0	0	0
H	3	Friend	0	0	0
I	1	Friend	0	0	0
J	3	Teacher	0	0	0
K	2	Friend	0	0	0
L	1	Parent	1	0	0

Participant	Pre 6	Pre 7	Pre 8	Pre 9
A	1	2	1	
B	5	1	0	
C	1	0	0	
D	20	4	4	
E	2	2	1	
F	1	0	0	
G	1	0	0	
H	0	0	1	
I	2	0	1	



J	0	0	0	
K	2	2	1	
L	3	0	4	

Participant	Post 1	Post 2	Post 3	Post 4	Post 5
A	1	Friend	0	0	2
B	0	N/A	0	0	0
C	9	Teacher	5	0	7
D	5	Friend	10	1	2
E	4	Parent	2	0	1
F	0	N/A	0	0	0
G	3	Friend	0	0	0
H	0	N/A	0	0	0
I	0	N/A	2	0	0
J	3	Friend	2	1	2
K	3	Parent	1	0	0
L	1	Friend	1	0	0

Participant	Post 6	Post 7	Post 8	Post 9
A	1	2	0	
B	0	0	0	
C	0	10	20	
D	15	15	10	
E	10	4	5	
F	0	0	1	
G	0	2	0	

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<b>H</b>	0	0	0	
<b>I</b>	3	0	0	
<b>J</b>	4	1	3	
<b>K</b>	3	0	0	
<b>L</b>	5	0	4	



## Appendix 7: Interview Codifications & Recurring Themes

Participant	Summary of Interview	Themes Present
A	Searched for and gained information via news articles, engaged in conversation about climate change with friends	Change in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Made aware of information not previously known, felt climate change was much more personal now	Greater Awareness of Climate Change
	Motivated by emotional imagery (polar bears losing habitat) to change behaviors	Identification of Successful Tactics (Imagery)
	Thought switching back and forth between speeches and narrative storytelling was an effective way of communicating information	Identification of Successful Tactics (Narrative)
	Turned off lights after leaving rooms	Change in Non-Information-Gathering Behaviors
B	Did not notice/intend to create any change in information gathering behaviors	Constant in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Thought <i>A/T</i> was a highly effective communicator, especially regarding statistical evidence	Identification of Successful Tactics (Statistics)
	Realized climate change is a very current issue, yet not compelled to take action because effects are not felt currently	Greater Awareness of Climate Change
	More eager to participate in and pay attention to conversations about climate change	
C	Information gathering behaviors did not change, but was made more aware of climate change and its extent	Constant in Information-Gathering Behaviors





	Believed there was no engaging message at the beginning of the film to “hook” the audience	Improvements for Messaging
	Reduced usage of plastic water bottles and was more aware of the impacts of littering	Changes in Non-Information-Gathering Behaviors
D	Engaged with more climate change content on social media and in the news	Change in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Age of the documentary motivated to change behaviors (numbers were likely higher/situation was more urgent)	Age of Documentary
	Graphs and photos were effective parts of messaging	Identification of Successful Tactics (Statistics and Imagery)
E	Searched for information about impacts of climate change via web and news sources/discussed these effects with parents	Change in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Made a conscious effort to gather more information due to the documentary	
	Statistical information made the documentary more engaging and made it more easy to understand climate change	Identification of Successful Tactics (Statistics)
	Made more aware of the details of climate change, even though the information may be outdated	Greater Awareness of Climate Change
F	Did not notice a change or intend to change information gathering behaviors after viewing the film	Constant in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Conveyed a sense of urgency regarding climate change to the viewer	Identification of Successful Tactics (Raising Urgency)
	Lacked in specific actions the	Improvements for Messaging



	audience could take to reduce the impact of climate change	
G	Attempted to engage more in conversation relating to climate change topics	Change in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Impacted by both emotional imagery and statistical evidence to change non-environmentally conscious behaviors	Identification of Successful Tactics (Statistics/Imagery)
	Feels greater fear about climate change	Greater Awareness of Climate Change
	Taking pride in previous environmentally conscious decisions	
H	Did not notice a change in or intend to change information gathering behaviors	Constant in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Documentary is not a strong enough way of motivating people to change, must come from source with more authority (government)	Improvements for Messaging
I	Did not change information gathering behaviors, but became more aware of the issue in day to day life	Constant in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Discussed trends and scientific evidence for climate change well, especially concerning charts and graphs	Identification of Successful Tactics (Statistics)
	Feels that they have a greater background of climate change topics	Greater Awareness of Climate Change
	More mindful of carbon emissions in discussion and in practice (driving)	Changes in Non-Information-Gathering Behaviors
J	Engaged more with new sources regarding climate change after viewing the film, and intended to do so	Change in Information-Gathering Behaviors

	Graphs and statistics made it easier to realize the impact climate change would have over the next few years	Identification of Successful Tactics (Statistics)
	Realized the effect individual actions can have on creating climate change and the power of collective action to revert it	Greater Awareness of Climate Change
	More aware of conversations about climate change taking place in day to day life, long-term change	
K	Engaged more with climate change video content and social media posts, as well as discussing more with friends/family	Change in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Emotional/comedic imagery engaged the viewer in the film and its message	Identification of Successful Tactics (Imagery)
	Demonstrates the large scale of climate change, and since time has passed we are even closer to the most disastrous effects	Age of Documentary
	Recycled more waste immediately after viewing the film, but may be short term effect	Changes in Non-Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Had a greater appreciation for the natural environment	
L	Engaged with more climate change news articles, both due to film and outside factors	Change in Information-Gathering Behaviors
	Imagery and cinematography (switching between talk and narratives) lent to the film being well done, hooked the viewer more than text could	Identification of Successful Tactics (Imagery)
	Climate change brought to the forefront of the mind more often, not just when it was being explicitly	Greater Awareness of Climate Change



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	discussed	
	Began donating to an environmental nonprofit	Changes in Non-Information-Gathering Behaviors



## Appendix 8A: Participant A Interview

Interviewer

All right, let's start. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcasts, search engines, news sources, or interpersonal relationships. Then climate change topics are information regarding long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic, man-made and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, and personal actions to reduce impacts on climate change. Okay. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics since viewing an Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant A

I looked up two articles on polar bears and how they've been affected by the melting of ice caps because it made me really sad about that. Did I answer it? Okay.

Interviewer

Anything else? Or just any other broad shifts? Regarding information gathering behavior.

Participant A

I think I look stuff up more.

Interviewer

Yeah, that's fine. Okay, cool. Whatever you want to say. Did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant A

Yes. I sought out new information.

Interviewer

Okay. Do you believe that viewing An Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant A



Yes. Do you want me to explain? Okay. Because I was made more aware of things I didn't know about before that piqued my interest. So I looked at them.

Interviewer

Anything specific?

Participant A

Definitely the polar bear thing. That made me really sad. Like, really sad. And then also when they were talking about electric vehicles and how all the other countries are moving faster than us. Something with China. I looked at it, but I don't remember. I'm sorry.

Interviewer

You're good. What did An Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted/changed your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics?

Participant A

What did it do correctly?

Interviewer

What did you notice that the film did to influence your behavior or motivate you to want to change your behavior?

Participant A

I liked the formatting of how they went back and forth from his live speech to extended information on a different level, if that makes sense. He continued on with the information, but outside of his live speech, if that makes sense. Yeah.

Interviewer

All right. Which of your information gathering behaviors related to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing An Inconvenient Truth? This includes, but is not limited to seeking out information on social media, in video, print, and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships.

Participant A

I started looking things up on the internet, and I read two articles on the polar bears. I think I read I'm going to have a look on Apple news about electric vehicles.

Interviewer





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How did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant A

Can you say it one more time? So sorry.

Interviewer

How did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant A

It seems a lot more personal now, I think. I know that it was filmed a long time ago, but it seems more like real-world, like something that is actually happening rather than something I just hear about, if that makes sense. Yeah. I don't know.

Interviewer

Yeah, that's perfect. Do you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant A

I had a conversation with my friend about it a few weeks ago, which I don't really talk to her about that. So I was bringing it up to people.

Interviewer

Yeah. Do you believe that the before mentioned changes will be long term or were they a short term effect of you in the documentary?

Participant A

Long term. Because the polar bears made me really sad.

Interviewer

Yeah. All right. Last two easy questions. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant A

No. Sorry, I did not know about that.

Interviewer



Are there any changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant A

This is a really little thing, but I started turning off the lights when I leave a room.

Interviewer

That's great. Awesome. Yeah, that's good. All right. That was it. You're done. Okay. Yeah, that was short and easy. Okay, now I have a debrief statement.



## Appendix 8B: Participant B Interview

Interviewer

Here we go. I'm going to read you an introduction, and then I'm going to read you some definitions, and then I'm going to ask you the first question. Okay. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary, An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Now some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. And then climate change topics is defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. And this may include both anthropogenic and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions? Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant B

No, I did not notice.

Interviewer

My next question is, did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant B

Somewhat. I knew that I should... After viewing that, I knew that I should be investing in this topic, and I knew that I should be trying to gather more information about this, but I also knew that I wouldn't because I just wouldn't.

Interviewer

Yeah, that's okay. My next question is, to what extent do you believe An Inconvenient Truth was a successful communicator of climate change topics? How could this message have been improved?

Participant B

I think it was 100% the best communicator about this topic because it got me thinking about everything. I'm pretty sure it hit the argument on every side of... if there's a circle, it hit it on every side of the circle. Every corner and every argument that could have been made was made



in that video. It was very eye-opening, and I think it was great. I don't know how it could have been better.

Interviewer

Were there any specific parts that come to mind?

Participant B

His statistical evidence, his numbers, because that's a lot of how people get swayed and how people start to believe. I'm a person, I believe when there's a chart in front of me showing me the specific numbers, that like, yeah. Cool.

Interviewer

My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent constant in your information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant B

Can you say that again?

Interviewer

Yeah. How did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent constant in your information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change? How did the film impact your perception of climate change?

Participant B

Okay. Well, it made me realize that it's coming a lot faster than I'd imagined. It made me... climate change, I knew that everyone was talking about it, but since I haven't felt the effects directly, I don't feel like it's going to happen anytime soon. But the movie was talking about 2050 or in 40 years from now, and that's horrifying. So I think I'm a little... I'm a little more scared now, but I still, since I don't feel the effects happening to me directly, I still don't care enough to make a change about it, which sucks, which really sucks.

Interviewer

Okay. My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant B

Actually, I did notice that when it would be brought up in conversation, I'd be more eager to listen to what they would talk about. I found the film interesting.



Interviewer

Are there any specific instances of conversation that come to mind?

Participant B

I think APES. We talked about it a little in APES. Usually, I'm checked out for that class, but when we were talking about climate change, I was actually paying attention.

Interviewer

My next question is, do you believe that the aforementioned changes will be long term or were they a short term effect of doing the documentary?

Participant B

Aforementioned changes?

Interviewer

Aforementioned changes. When you were more engaged in conversation, do you believe that that's a short term effect or a long term effect?

Participant B

That's a good question. I right now would think long term because I now know how soon it's going to come. I now have the... since I have that movie in my head, I know all the stuff that's happening and how problematic it's going to be. But I could totally be- It might be short term.

Interviewer

That's totally valid. Okay, two more short, easy questions. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant B

No.

Interviewer

Okay. Are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to an inconvenient truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant B



No. Great film, great way to get people to become informed. It's just that I'm a very lazy person, so no matter how informed I am, I probably won't do anything about it.

Interviewer

That's okay. Okay, awesome. I'm going to read you a debrief statement now, and then we'll be done.



## Appendix 8C: Participant C Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you my introduction and then some definitions, and then I'll ask you questions. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Now, some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. And climate change topics are defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or manmade and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions? No. Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics since viewing an inconvenient truth? And if so, how?

Participant C

I don't think so. Maybe to the extent of after I did watch your documentary, I felt a little bit more aware of the impact of a carbon footprint or a human's footprint. And adding on to me previously transitioning to a unit for my AP Lang class, it's just brought in my scope. And so when I'm accessing information for my AP Lang class, because we had to read multiple pieces of books, and we had to read... Or like, excerpts from books, and we had to watch a documentary, A Life on Our Planet. I don't know if you know. And then we had to read... We read the Wilderness letter and just a bunch of stuff. It sat in my brain and it was just like, Oh, I'm familiar with this topic because of me watching [Interviewer]'s - I hope that answers the question.

Interviewer

No, yeah, that answers the question. My second question is, did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? And if so, how?

Participant C

No, I did not.

Interviewer

Okay. My next question is, to what extent do you believe An Inconvenient Truth was a successful communicator of climate change topics? How could this message have been improved?



Participant C

I believe it accurately got the message across. However, I do feel like the intro was very - it could drive the audience away. I feel like the intro was very slow at first and, yes, it's important, but I feel like it had no hook and there was no premises to draw the reader or audience in. So I feel like if there was a hook, like a call to... Something just to actually make the person watching it invested in it.

Interviewer

Yeah, totally get that. My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent constant in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant C

I feel like my eyes have definitely been broadened. I'm now really more subconscious about my everyday use of things. For example, I'm a victim of using plastic water bottles quite frequently. And I've been recently using my Hydroflask a lot more just because I've thought about it. When some of my friends, they're littering and stuff, I'm more self-conscious and I actually realize, oh, hey, I should probably pick that up for them or tell them or something like that. And then after watching that whole thing with Alaska, and I don't know if it was in yours or my AP Lang class, but I think it was my AP Lang class, but something about how Italy is sinking and how, I believe, if Alaska is melted... Oh, yeah, this was in the documentary. If Alaska melts, I think a large amount of the United States will be gone. It made me more subconscious to how I go about my everyday to day life.

Interviewer

Yeah, that's perfect. Awesome. My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change, not just information gathering after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant C

I don't think there was any other changes.

Interviewer

Okay. All right, two more easy questions. My next question is, did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant C

No, I did not.

Interviewer





Okay, perfect. My last question is, are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior or a result of viewing the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to an inconvenient truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant C

Well, actually, it made me think about what I want to do with my life, if that makes sense. It was definitely a call to action. I already had... This is really crazy in a way, but I already know what I want to do with my life, I guess. But it almost adapted the perception of what exactly I want to do because I know I want to work in the government one day, but I was incredibly invested in it. As it is, I have a background of environmental preservation just because it was a topic I was really interested in last year. And so it adapted my vision of how much of the world we actually do have left. If you were to compare it to 50 years ago, how much carbon is being pumped out into the air. I guess it changed my perception.

Interviewer

Awesome. All right, you are done. Now I'm going to read you a debrief statement.



## Appendix 8D: Participant D Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you an introduction, and then I'm going to read you some definitions, and then I will start the questions. Okay. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Now, some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, Film or TV, books, radio or podcast, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. And climate change topics are defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or manmade and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions? Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant D

Yes. After watching it, I've recently followed a lot of more social media accounts that are talking about climate change and global warming and everything. I've read a lot more articles online.

Interviewer

Did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant D

Yes. After watching it, I was like, Okay. Because also the documentary was years old. Those numbers are probably much higher. I was like, Okay, so I got to change some of my habits.

Interviewer

Do you believe that viewing An Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information-gathered behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant D

Yeah.

Interviewer

Awesome. What did An Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted or changed your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics?



Participant D

A lot of the graphs are super informative, especially the one where he went on the scissor lift. But yeah, a lot of the Photos and... yeah, graphs.

Interviewer

Yeah. Awesome. My next question is, which of your information-gathered behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing An Inconvenient Truth? This includes, but is not limited to seeking information on social media, in video, print, and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships.

Participant D

Probably by social media. Yeah.

Interviewer

Yeah. How did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant D

I always knew it was bad. But after watching, I was like, okay, so it's a lot worse. Even in, when was this? 2005? 2005. I was like, even in 2005, it was very bad. Especially all of the fires that just happened, it Yeah.

Interviewer

Just the urgency of it?

Participant D

Yes. Yeah.

Interviewer

Okay. Awesome. Did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant D

Sorry. Not really, but...

Interviewer

Awesome. Okay. Two super quick, easy questions, then you're done. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?



Participant D

I did not.

Interviewer

Okay, perfect. Are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time.

Participant D

I've looked for more eco-friendly brands to buy from. Yeah.

Interviewer

Awesome. You're done. Super easy. Thank you for your participation. I'm going to read you a debrief statement now.



## Appendix 8E: Participant E Interview

Interviewer

Okay, so I am going to read you an introduction and some definitions first, and then we'll get started with questions. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Then some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of specific topics. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcast, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. Then climate change topics are defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions? My first question is, did you notice a change in your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant E

I think so, yeah. I think immediately afterwards, I did a lot of googling because I talked to my dad a lot about politics. I searched a few different news sites and showed him those and went over them.

Interviewer

Do you know what the topics were, specifically?

Participant E

It was about a specific lake in Canada, I think that had disappeared over the last 50 years or so because of climate change.

Interviewer

Awesome. Did you explicitly intend to change your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant E

I think so. I think I made a conscious effort to look into it a little more.

Interviewer

Did you plan any specific actions or did you just want to make a more general effort?



Participant E

Just a more general effort.

Interviewer

Okay, awesome. Do you believe that viewing An Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant E

I think it did. Yeah.

Interviewer

Okay. Awesome. My next question is, what did An Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted/changed your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant E

I think it presented the information in an engaging way. It was easier to understand than looking at a bunch of statistics that are hard to follow. It definitely... I mean, it is like a movie, I guess. It has that aspect of it that's interesting to watch. But a lot of the information that was presented was engaging and had a lot of real-world examples that I can follow and understand.

Interviewer

Does anything come specifically to mind from the movie?

Participant E

I remember the graph that he had that he had to get onto the thing that makes him taller so that he could illustrate how much it's grown in the past few years. That was definitely something that sticks in my mind.

Interviewer

Awesome. Which of your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing an Inconvenient Truth? This includes but is not limited to seeking information on social media, in video, print, and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships?

Participant E

Probably just googling for news sources and things. I see a lot of climate change and political things on Instagram stories and things, but that hasn't really changed much. But I have done a lot more of looking on different news sites and trying to see what's happening.



Interviewer

Awesome. My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant E

I'm not sure how much it impacted it because we have done a lot of work with climate change, at least in classes and things, to understand it. But I don't know. I think it just made me more aware of the specific details of things that are happening. Obviously, it's an old documentary, but it just gave me more specific data about it. Awesome.

Interviewer

My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior leading to climate change topics after viewing an Inconvenient Truth?

Participant E

Not really. I was going to say recycling, but we've done that previously.

Interviewer

Okay. Just two super More super quick, easy questions. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant E

I didn't.

Interviewer

Awesome. My last question is, are there any other changes that you've noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant E

I think I noticed the other day because I was thinking about this interview coming up, and then I started thinking about the documentary, and I was washing the dishes, and then I turned off the water for a little bit. I was busy doing something else. I was like, I should be climate conscious. I love that.

Interviewer



Turn it off.

Participant E

All right.

Interviewer

We're done. Easy peasy. I'm going to read you a debrief statement now.





## Appendix 8F: Participant F Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you an introduction and then some definitions, and then I'll ask you my first questions. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary, An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. And now for some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. And climate change topics are defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or man-made climate change and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing this information about climate change, and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions?

Participant F

No.

Interviewer

Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant F

After viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth, I did not seem to notice a significant or even the presence of a difference in my information seeking terms of climate change.

Interviewer

Awesome. My second question is, did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant F

I did not.

Interviewer

Okay. My next question is, to what extent do you believe An Inconvenient Truth was a successful communicator of climate change topics? How could this messaging have been improved?



Participant F

Just on a scale or just how I felt?

Interviewer

Just what do you think the film did successfully and what could have been improved in its messaging?

Participant F

I think it definitely displayed a sense of urgency in terms of what we need to do in terms of trying to combat climate change, especially towards the beginning and the end.

Interviewer

Is there anything you think could have been improved about the film or its messaging?

Participant F

I think this is more of my interpretation, but in my opinion, I felt like there was a little bit of a lack of what we could be doing specifically in order to reduce our I guess, impact in climate change or to increase our impact within climate change.

Interviewer

Yeah, for sure. My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent constant in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change impact your perception of climate change?

Participant F

Could you repeat that? Yeah.

Interviewer

How did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent constant in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics, how did it impact your perception of climate change?

Participant F

I would say that it didn't necessarily impact my... Sorry, could you repeat the question?

Interviewer

No, you're good. Just how did the film impact your perception of climate change?



Participant F

Well, definitely, like I said earlier, it conveyed a sense of urgency of what we need to do, especially within the next 50 years. I feel like a lot of the information introduced at the beginning I already knew of. It was more so of, actually, I guess it introduced my lens in terms of how everything right now in terms of climate change has skyrocketed in terms of what it has been in the past. So it informed me about the historical aspect of climate change.

Interviewer

Yeah, for sure. My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing an Inconvenient Truth?

Participant F

Me personally since I didn't really intend to seek out a lot of resources related to climate change, I didn't really notice that much of an impact following my viewing of it.

Interviewer

Two short, easy questions, and then you're done. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant F

I did click on the link to look at a few of them. I just broadly looked over them.

Interviewer

Yeah. Awesome. Are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant F

I do not have any following questions after viewing it. What was the first part of the question?

Interviewer

Are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary?

Participant F

I have not noticed any significant changes in my behavior.

Interviewer



Awesome. I'm going to read you a debrief statement now. You're done with questions.



## Appendix 8G: Participant G Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you an introduction first, and then I'll read you some definitions, and then we'll get to the actual questions. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Now, some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. Climate change topics are defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or man-made and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, the effects of climate change, addressing this information about climate change, or personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions?

Participant G

No.

Interviewer

Awesome. My first question is, did you notice any changes in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant G

Honestly, yes, because whenever somebody would bring it up or somebody would talk about gas cars or something, I'll think about it and I'll be like, whoa, wait, [Interviewer].

Interviewer

Okay. Did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant G

Not really.

Interviewer

Okay. Do you believe that viewing An Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant G



Absolutely.

Interviewer

Okay. My next question is, what did An Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted or changed your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant G

The seal.

Interviewer

The seal?

Participant G

The seal made me really sad. Every time I would think about being not eco friendly, I would think about that.

Interviewer

That was- Any other parts or just the seal?

Participant G

Okay, wait. There was one that was like, I thought China had the most carbon emissions or something, but it was the United States by so much, and that shocked me. I think that one, the Seals. Yeah, the seal. Or the Polar Bear, not the Seals.

Interviewer

The Polar Bear, yeah. I was going to say I didn't think it was the seal. I think it was the Polar Bear. Yeah, awesome. My next question is, Which of your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing An Inconvenient Truth? This includes but is not limited to seeking information on social media, in video, print, and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships?

Participant G

AP Bio? I don't know.

Interviewer

Which of your behaviors... which of your information seeking behaviors do you think was most influenced? In which ways did you seek information after doing An Inconvenient Truth?



Participant G

Probably searching things up.

Interviewer

Okay, yeah. Are there any specific examples that come to mind?

Participant G

No.

Interviewer

That's okay. My next question is, how did *An Inconvenient Truth* and subsequent change in your information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant G

I'm scared. I'm scared of climate change. From before, I always knew it was real. Obviously, it's science and it's affecting us, but I didn't realize how much, especially with carbon, carbon dioxide.

Interviewer

Yeah. Any other examples or anything that comes to mind or just the proximity of it was a big.

Participant G

The polar bears. I didn't know about how icebergs... wait, no, it's not the icebergs. It's like the sun comes down and then it goes back up and then the wider the space between the Earth and the ozone layer or something like that, the more heat gets trapped. That's how it works. I didn't know that.

Interviewer

My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*?

Participant G

I'm really proud of myself for having an electric car.

Interviewer



Yeah, there you go. Yeah. Awesome. Okay, it's two super easy questions, and then you're done. My next question is, did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant G

I don't think so.

Interviewer

Okay. Then my last question is, are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary or any other remaining thoughts you have relating to an inconvenient truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant G

I feel like I started thinking more about what's eco friendly and what's not. My dog poop bags. No. Those are, what's it? Compostable?

Interviewer

Compostable? Like biodegradable?

Participant G

Yes. Biodegradable or I was like, Wow, I have solar panels and my neighbors don't. I use electric cars. Yeah, that's about it.

Interviewer

Awesome. Yeah. All right, you're done. I'm just going to read you a debrief statement now and then you're free to go.





## Appendix 8H: Participant H Interview

Interviewer

Okay, this is my introduction, and then I'm going to read you some definitions, and then I'm going to ask you the first question. So the purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary, An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. And now some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as seeking a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film, TV, books, radio, podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. Climate change topics is defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or manmade and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing this information about climate change and personal actions to reduce the impacts of climate change. Any questions? No. Okay. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant H

No.

Interviewer

All right. My next question is, did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant H

No.

Interviewer

My next question. To what extent do you believe An Inconvenient Truth was a successful communicator of climate change topics? How could this message have been improved?

Participant H

Give me a second to think about it.

Interviewer

Okay. Take your time.



Participant H

Okay. It displays its message properly and shares the information as needed and correctly in a meaningful way. But a documentary isn't a strong enough way of getting someone to talk about climate change or take further actions and change the way they live in a substantial manner.

Interviewer

What do you think would have been more substantial? What do you think is a more substantial way of communicating climate change?

Participant H

It has to come from the top, aka from politicians, which is a tough thing within our society. But those are people that we, quote, unquote, listen to. Hearing information, and not just information, but hearing the actions taking place from those people even if that's a law requiring certain things, like there's laws about electric vehicles in California in the coming years, that really gets the word out. It gets the word out just like the documentary does. It does do that, but it gets people having to act differently. It actually enacts a certain type of change.

Interviewer

So forcing people to change is, in your opinion, the best way to get people to change?

Participant H

In a... I don't know about the forcing. I would say suggesting, but that's what the documentary does. It suggests this type of change. I guess in a way, a forced change is almost what's necessary to get something to budge in our society.

Interviewer

Did you notice any changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*?

Participant H

No.

Interviewer

Okay. Two more questions then. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant H



Oh, no.

Interviewer

Are there any changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics that you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant H

Well, it was a good documentary. I've watched a lot of documentaries about climate change after being in environmental science. I thought that one hit better with giving me the facts than most documentaries. I did think about the effects more in my head, but I didn't necessarily do anything with my actions to change anything.

Interviewer

Okay. Now I'm going to read you a debrief statement.



## Appendix 8I: Participant I Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you an introduction and some definitions, and then we will get started. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Now some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships, and climate change topics is defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or man-made in natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change, and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions? No. Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant I

After viewing An Inconvenient Truth, I didn't notice any changes that I exhibited, but I noticed that when I would go to browsers or go to any media posts, I would see more climate change-related topics, and I would be more inclined to engage with them.

Interviewer

My second question is, did you explicitly intend to change your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing an Inconvenient Truth?

Participant I

I did immediately after viewing an Inconvenient Truth, but as the weeks went on, I did not personally engage in seeking out that.

Interviewer

Okay. My next question is, do you believe that viewing an Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant I

Yes, a thousand percent. I think after viewing An Inconvenient Truth, I felt more well-versed in climate change and just the overall topic of it.

Interviewer



Awesome. My next question is, what did An Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted or changed your information-gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics?

Participant I

I think An Inconvenient Truth successfully talked about the future of trends and where it's going scientifically. And by talking a lot about the history of climate change and the future of it now and how humans have really impacted it, it's more... it was clear to me how much of an issue it is and how much we are able to stop it. That hopeful but also discerning factor definitely was a positive, in my opinion. I think they did that really well.

Interviewer

Were there any specific parts of the movie that stood out or just in general?

Participant I

A lot when he showed graphs and charts and when he would talk about in the '60s when this... this was the amount of carbon emissions in the '60s. Then based on how it's growing as of now, this is what it would be in 2050. When he got up on a crane and went up to the top of the building and showed this whole chart and graphs, I think it was very visually explanatory and it was very engaging.

Interviewer

Awesome. My next question is, which of your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing An Inconvenient Truth? This includes but is not limited to seeking information on social media, in video, print and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships.

Participant I

I've noticed a lot when I view media posts and social media posts, I feel I have a better understanding when I go into it. Currently, I'm doing a lot of research on the current politics of our world. When I view that and when I view news sources of it, I feel more literate when it comes to the topic of climate change and when it comes to the overall trends and graphs of what can be expected to come.

Interviewer

Awesome. My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant I



It heavily impacted my perception of climate change, mainly on how rapid it is and how quick that climate change is affecting us as a population and showing trends of ice and glaciers melting in Greenland and having that futuristic aspect to it. It changed my view on it and to be a lot more sudden and a lot more like this is something that needs to be addressed now and it's very current. Awesome.

Interviewer

My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior related to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant I

I've noticed a couple. I tend to notice a lot more the effects of various carbon emissions in people and when I've been a bit more observant around the world of different things that relate to climate change and things that can be done to help reduce it.

Interviewer

Awesome. Do you believe that the aforementioned changes will be long term or were they a short term effect of viewing the documentary?

Participant I

I believe that the changes can be long term in terms of humanity's life. I believe that if the changes would affect our life and could essentially ruin humanity. But in the grand scheme of the Earth, the Earth will replenish itself, and the Earth will go back to the way it was before with or without humans on it. We are only a small percentage. We have only been on this Earth for a small percentage of the time that it's been alive. I believe in terms of humanity and the strength of humanity, these changes will become long term to us. But in terms of the entire Earth, I believe that if humanity does end up going extinct, it will over time and over millions, maybe billions of years, it could return to its former state.

Interviewer

How about you personally? Do you believe that the documentary personally impacted your behaviors in the short term, or do you believe the impacts will transfer over to the long term?

Participant I

No, I think it can be long term. Theoretically, I should be alive in 2050 when all these changes are going to occur. If these trends are still rapidly growing and if it doesn't change, my world will look so different only a couple of years later. I'll be an adult. I won't be old and dead by the time it happens. It'll be soon, but it's definitely long term for me. It's not an issue that I don't think is just going to come and go in the next coming years. In fact, from the documentary, it seems to be getting worse. And that was 20 years ago or whenever An Inconvenient Truth was made. As



of now, this is something that I think definitely applies to me and our generation as we are living in it and we are facing the consequences of actions that were done before we were born.

Interviewer

Awesome. Two more short, easy questions. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant I

There was climate anxiety resources?

Interviewer

They were emailed shortly after viewing the film.

Participant I

No, I did not. I was like, check my email.

Interviewer

My final question is, are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary, or are there any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant I

I know for me, personally, a big part of what I'm doing is carbon emissions. I got a car recently, and I've noticed the difference in fuel efficiency in my car compared to others. I'm very lucky I got a... it's a nice car and it definitely has good mileage and it's very efficient. But there's a lot of people, my parents and my friends, the emissions of cars and this carbon emissions that go into the world, I've noticed it. I think the severity of it is impacting me a lot more now after viewing the documentary.

Interviewer

Awesome. All right. Thank you. You're done. I'm going to read you a debrief statement.



## Appendix 8J: Participant J Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you an introduction first and some definitions, and then I'll ask you a question, and then I'll start asking questions. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary, An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. And now for some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as seeing a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio and podcasts, search engines, news sources and interpersonal relationships. And climate change topics are defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic, manmade and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing misinformation about climate change and personal actions to reduce impact on climate change. Any questions? No. Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant J

If I looked at anything after? Yeah.

Interviewer

If you sought out any more information?

Participant J

Most of my information I get from social media, which is probably not the best source of information, but probably looking at different posts I had a couple of news sources come up on my news app, and so I would look at those.

Interviewer

Awesome. Did you explicitly intend to change your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant J

I mean, after, probably for a couple of days, and then I feel like it fell off a little bit.

Interviewer

That's okay. But you did think that you were going to change your behaviors?





Participant J

Yeah.

Interviewer

Okay. You did want to make an active effort?

Participant J

Mm-hmm.

Interviewer

Okay. Do you believe that viewing An Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant J

Yeah, I think so.

Interviewer

Okay. My next question is, what did An Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted or changed your information gathering behavior related to climate change topics?

Participant J

I liked in the movie how he showed a lot of statistics and really how it's changed over the years, which I think was the biggest impact that I had on it, seeing how it'll affect us in the years to come also. Not now, but like...

Interviewer

Yeah. Were there any specific parts that come to mind?

Participant J

It was when he was showing the graph, and then he got on the machine to go up and look at how it would be in 2030.

Interviewer

My next question is, which of your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing An Inconvenient Truth? This includes but is not limited to seeking information on social media, in video, print and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships.



Participant J

Yeah. Probably... what I used?

Interviewer

Yeah. What sources of information do you feel that you got most of your information from after viewing the documentary?

Participant J

I get a lot of it from social media, but I think the most useful was probably the news app and stuff I found online rather than on social media.

Interviewer

Were there any specific news articles that come to mind?

Participant J

Not that I can remember. It was a week ago. That's fine.

Interviewer

Don't worry.

Participant J

I was reading a lot about the fires because that was what was happening at the moment.

Interviewer

My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant J

I mean, it was really how much of an impact we have on climate change as people and how if we all really worked on it collectively, then it could definitely get better, I think was like.

Interviewer

Yeah, totally. My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior related to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant J



I feel like I've been a little bit more socially aware of everything that's going on around me. I feel like I've been paying more attention in some of my classes where it relates to those topics in science or history. I feel like I'm more aware of what's happening around me.

Interviewer

Do you believe that the aforementioned changes, the changes that you talked about in paying attention, will be long term or were they a short term effect of doing the documentary?

Participant J

Since watching it, I feel like it's definitely had a long-term effect.

Interviewer

Awesome. Two more super easy questions, then you're done. My next question is, did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant J

No, I did not.

Interviewer

My last question is, are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant J

I mean, not really. It's more just focusing in class and really being more aware of and reading more articles about climate change.

Interviewer

All right, you're done. I'm just going to read you a debrief statement now.



## Appendix 8K: Participant K Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you an introduction and some definitions, and then we will get started. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behaviors after viewing the documentary, An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Now, some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio or podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships. And climate change topics are defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or manmade and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, the effects of climate change, addressing information about climate change and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions?

Participant K

No, I get it.

Interviewer

Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant K

Well, I think one of the things I said in this survey was that there's this guy who made a poem and posted it on YouTube a long time ago, and watching that made - it was a poem on climate change. It had reminded me, I hadn't watched it in a while, and it had reminded me to watch that, which is really cool. I like that one a lot.

Interviewer

Awesome. Any other changes? Or that was the only one.

Participant K

I feel like a few more climate change things popped up into my Instagram feed.

Interviewer

Awesome. My next question is, did you explicitly intend to change your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant K

I don't know if I... I feel like it just happened. It wasn't a voluntary action, but it more just happened after.

Interviewer

For sure. My next question is, do you believe that viewing An Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information-gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?



Participant K

Definitely. I don't think I would have felt like everything... even if they were a lot of small things, but I had conversations with my dad, actually, about the whole movie. That was the... I don't think I would have done that had I not been watching. I had conversations about climate change with him and watched the video. I don't think those would have happened without it.

Interviewer

Yeah, for sure. My next question is, what did an Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted or changed your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics?

Participant K

It had you invested. Not only did it get the point across really well, but it also was... there was an entertainment factor to it. There were funny moments. I think that was cool.

Interviewer

Does anything specifically come to mind?

Participant K

Yes. There's a video that... what's his name? Who's the main guy?

Interviewer

Al Gore.

Participant K

Al Gore, yeah. He showed a video in 50 years where they were dropping ice cubes into the ocean. Then the girl said something about ice cubes... my dad's put those to his drink, and then he gets mad, and I was like, oh, okay.

Interviewer

My next question is, which of your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing an inconvenient truth. This includes but is not limited to seeking information on social media, in video, print, and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships.

Participant K

I feel like it was a little bit of a tie between social media and interpersonal.

Interviewer

Do you care to elaborate?

Participant K

Yeah. I think interpersonal actually would be the bigger one. Just because I had all of them. I feel like I had a lot more conversations with both [friend] and my father. I feel like I think I had

two conversations with my dad and one with [friend] about it afterwards. I don't usually talk about it, but then I did, and I feel like...

Interviewer

Awesome. Yeah. My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant K

I think it showed actually just how big the issue is right now. That was old. That was a while ago. He was talking about how in just the next few years, this is what happens, and we're already past those next few years. Those big changes that he was talking about haven't happened, which means we are at the point where he's like, yeah, it's going to suck. I feel like we've been seeing that, too. Everything in the world has been... natural disasters have been worse and worse. I think it was like...it really just did a lot of... there's his big graph that he had. The graph was like, Oh, shoot. Worst. Like, screwed.

Interviewer

Yeah.

Participant K

So, yeah.

Interviewer

Yeah. My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth?

Participant K

You know what? Yes, because right afterwards, I had lunch and I had this plastic bag and I tossed it in the trash and I went, no. And I went back, I grabbed it out of the trash and I put it in the recycling.

Interviewer

I'm glad. Yeah. Do you believe that the aforementioned changes, so being more focused on recycling, will be long term or were they a short term effect of viewing the documentary?

Participant K

I feel like I'd hope long term. I feel like I still have been... I feel like I have been reminding myself to be a little better at this, especially after watching An Inconvenient Truth. Yeah. But I don't know. That's hard.

Interviewer

Yeah, for sure. It's a difficult question. Okay, two more easy questions, then you're done. Did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant K



No.

Interviewer

Okay. My last question is, are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of viewing the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have relating to An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you'd like to bring to my attention at this time?

Participant K

I feel like just, I don't know, more of an appreciation for just how awesome and beautiful nature is.

Interviewer

Awesome. I'm glad. All right, you're done. I'm just going to read you a super quick debrief statement now, and then we'll be done.



## Appendix 8L: Participant L Interview

Interviewer

I'm going to read you an introduction, and then I'm going to read you some definitions, and then we'll start with the first question. The purpose of this interview is to more deeply understand changes in climate change behavior after viewing the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. You are encouraged to answer every question to the best of your ability, but may choose not to respond to any question or questions. There are no correct or best answers to any questions in this interview. Follow-up questions may be asked as needed. Now, some definitions. Information gathering behavior is defined as actively seeking out relevant information as to gain a better understanding of a specific topic. This includes seeking out information via social media, film or TV, books, radio and podcasts, search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships, and climate change Climate topics is defined as information regarding long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. This may include both anthropogenic or manmade and natural climate change, fossil fuel emissions, effects of climate change, addressing this information about climate change, and personal actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Any questions?

Participant L

No, that sounds good.

Interviewer

Awesome. My first question is, did you notice a change in your information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant L

I think I did because I normally engage through social media posts on Instagram and different news articles directly. I use this news article source called Ground News, where it provides me with a bunch of different other sources and can tell me things like biases and stuff. So I would say I definitely looked at more climate change related, especially due to the recent administration, their actions around it, through mediums.

Interviewer

Awesome. My next question is, did you explicitly intend to change your information-gathering behavior relating to climate change after viewing An Inconvenient Truth? If so, how?

Participant L

I don't know if it was intended, but I think it was just a result of being exposed to that much information about it. I wanted to seek out more, so I just naturally clicked towards it. But I don't know if I was necessarily... it was more if I came across it and went to it more than searching directly for it.





Interviewer

My next question is, do you believe that viewing An Inconvenient Truth influenced your change in information gathering behavior relating to climate change topics?

Participant L

I think it has.

Interviewer

Awesome. Okay. My next question is, what did An Inconvenient Truth do successfully to create messaging that impacted or changed your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics?

Participant L

I think the fact that it's probably one of the only long form pieces of media about it that's this popular because I think it was just the fact that it was just so overwhelmingly true and thoughtfully done. And with the nature imagery in the film itself and the other cinematography aspects to it, it definitely speaks to a person more than just reading an article about it.

Interviewer

Yeah. Were there any parts in particular that stood out to you as being particularly impactful?

Participant L

Any parts in particular? I can't necessarily think of any off the top in my head, but I do like the format of him talking in front of the podium and then switching to show the actual impacts of what he was talking about.

Interviewer

Yeah.

Participant L

Awesome.

Interviewer

My next question is, which of your information gathering behaviors relating to climate change topics do you believe was the most greatly impacted by viewing An Inconvenient Truth? This includes but is not limited to seeking information on social media, in video, print, and audio forms, and via search engines, news sources, and interpersonal relationships.



Participant L

It was probably the news sources one. Because also during this time, I started to use this app that I told you about more. It just had me accessing more news articles just in general, but also more articles about climate change because there's been news about that recently for sure. But yeah, definitely the news sources.

Interviewer

Are there any news articles that stand out in particular as being memorable or impactful?

Participant L

Oh, specific news articles? Well, the one, I couldn't tell you what it was from, but the two probably most is the one that last year was the hottest year on record, actually doing 1.5 degrees celsius. Add a degree celsius from the starting point. You know what I mean? Then withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. Those are probably two of the biggest ones.

Interviewer

Okay. My next question is, how did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant L

Wait, sorry. Could you repeat that question?

Interviewer

Yeah. How did An Inconvenient Truth and subsequent change in your information-gathering behaviors regarding climate change topics impact your perception of climate change?

Participant L

I see, okay. Yeah. Well, I would say that it made me more willing to look for and to get information about it specifically because, obviously, I know about it and I have an opinion about it, but I never... I guess it wasn't only in specific times when there's a lot of news regarding it, I guess, would it be at the forefront of my attention? It was more at the forefront of my attention lately.

Interviewer

Awesome. My next question is, did you notice any other changes in your broader behavior relating to climate change topics after viewing an Inconvenient Truth?

Participant L



Oh, actually, I forgot I did this. I wasn't necessarily thinking of an inconvenient truth, but maybe I had something to do with it. But I donated to Earth Justice, a monthly donation, which is a... I totally forgot I did that. Which is this nonprofit group that employs lawyers to fight for environmental cases. I got messaging from them a long time ago. They sometimes send me texts about what's happening and sometimes asking for donations and stuff. I decided to donate a couple of days ago, actually.

Interviewer

That's awesome. Do you believe that the aforementioned changes will be long term or short term?

Participant L

I don't know. It's hard to say. I've always known about it and felt about it. I don't know. It's hard to make an accurate reading on that.

Interviewer

That's okay.

Participant L

Can I choose to be uncertain on that?

Interviewer

Yeah, that's fine. Okay, so two more super easy questions, then you're done. My next question is, did you utilize the climate anxiety resources provided after viewing the film?

Participant L

No, I didn't.

Interviewer

Okay, perfect.

Participant L

Yeah. Do I give a reason or no?

Interviewer

No, you're good. My next question is, are there any other changes you have noticed in your behavior as a result of the documentary or any remaining thoughts you have regarding An Inconvenient Truth or climate change topics you would like to bring to my attention at this time?



Participant L

No, not really.

Interviewer

Awesome. You're done. I'm just going to read a debrief statement to you really quick, and then I'll let you go.