

LESSON PLAN

This simple and fun lesson plan makes a great companion to climate studies of all kinds, sparking fresh dialogue and perspectives. Most of it can be accomplished in a single class.

The lesson assumes, *a priori*, that climate chaos is a pressing existential threat to life on earth in our lifetimes, requiring immediate and widespread, intergenerational action and attention.

AIM

To enable participants to get in touch with their personal and peer relationships to climate crisis as an existential issue, inspiring greater awareness, connection, and facing of reality.

OBJECTIVE

1. To engage in discussion around effective climate communication memes.
2. To express a personal relationship to Earth and view of our climate crisis.
3. To brainstorm and write creative climate communications.

SELECT

Select an educationally curated pack of Dear Humans Love Earth cards from the list [here](#). Brief descriptions are provided for each. Alternatively, you can curate your own selection of favorites or choose thematically linked messages to suit a specific topic or level of discussion.

Note: In educational settings, we ask that you refrain from using the more crass and bleak messages. While these more extreme Earth voicings do have a place in reaching the general population, they can become a distraction in primary and secondary educational settings.

PRESENT

Randomly assign one or two cards to each student and ask them to read aloud to the class.

DISCUSS

Discuss as a class how they feel about what they have heard. Some questions to consider:

1. What do you think Dear Humans Love Earth is trying to accomplish?
2. How does assuming the voice of Earth change your perception of the climate crisis?
3. How did reading and hearing these messages from Earth's point of view make you feel?
4. Can you identify some of the different voices Earth takes on in trying to reach humans?
5. Which messages do you find are most effective and which are least effective?

ANALYZE

Ask each student to write a paragraph or two about each card they were assigned.

1. What is being communicated – about climate, about society, about human nature?
2. How is it being communicated in this specific instance?
3. Do you think this message is effective?

REFLECT

4. How would you describe your own relationship to Earth?
5. Do you see a climate is in crisis, and are you concerned about climate chaos in your future?
6. How could you give greater voice to Earth every day, in both your words and actions?
7. How would you go about changing minds and inspiring others to act against climate chaos?

CREATE!

Ask students to brainstorm their own messages from Earth to Humans. Working in pairs may be fun and helpful. Use the same structure as appears on the cards.

1. Encourage students to be concise, reworking messages for maximum effect.
2. Encourage students to reflect on and draw from their own experiences and voices.
3. It can be helpful to think in terms of expressing Earth's needs, hopes, desires, aggravations, disappointments, humor, irony, and fair warnings in the face of existential climate upheaval.
4. Some messages are built on a repeating conceit. It may help stimulate ideas to pick from one of these, or even to create one message in each conceit.
 - a. FREE TIP offerings, as in the example:
"Free Tip: Fewer than 2 children for about 2 generations."
 - b. YOU ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO solutions, as in the example:
"You ask what you can do? Take joy in simplicity and sufficiency."
 - c. JUST LETTING YOU KNOW NOW warnings, as in the example:
"Just letting you know now, there won't be a safe place or enough money."
 - d. SUN as the father figure, as in the example:
"Sun and I are already making plans for when you leave the house."
 - e. MARS as the planet B, as in the example:
"Property on Mars is free for a reason."
5. Encourage students to contribute their work to the Dear Humans Love Earth master project:
 - a. via the web: www.dhle.adclima.org
 - b. via email: messages@dhle.org

RESPOND

Now ask students to respond to Earth, using the separately provided [Dear Earth Love Humans lesson plan](#). This can be done in class or as homework. Then ask if any students want to share aloud what they have written. Finally, encourage them to contribute their work to the master project using the methods noted above.

REACH OUT

We always love to hear how it goes, and we are always looking to improve our learning materials! For questions or feedback on this lesson plan, please email: learn@dhle.org