

Wednesday Challenge Form

Group Members: Ara

Problem Statement: Mr. Neat's daughter came to our class and talked to us about her experiences in college, and the various work that she had done for her major in environmental major. Later she also discussed ecological problems and a possible solution, solar panel roads!

Approach: Into the specifics. Mr. Neat's daughter shared invaluable information regarding her work in college. She described her story of learning what major interested her. First, she wanted to study US history, but as time went on she took classes and worked on more environmental science courses. Apart from her individual story, Mr. Neat's daughter also explained her major, Environmental sciences, in more detail. For example, she overviewed global warming and global climate change. Additionally, she explained various statistics and issues such as the ocean water increase, and the ppm of CO₂ in our atmosphere. Because I took AP Chemistry I know some of the effects of increased NO₂ in our atmosphere. (NO₂ appears brown in the LA heat which is smog. But also dimerizes, or binds to itself to form N₂O₄ which is used as rocket propellant and appears colorless) Also, we discussed how solar panel roads would multiply the electricity output by a factor of 3. However, mass reproduction of roads is a costly endeavor and should be discussed by our government officials, and I guess we can ask congress too. For me, the most interesting aspect of the discussion was the implementation of solar roadways. In class we said that it may be a way for America to come out of debt. But, I feel like China would object. Politically, it makes no sense for China to subsidize America's endeavour to become free of the chains that China has put on us. I fear that a measure this big and potentially very successful, would cause China to cut funding around the time that America needs it the most. Obviously, China would have to find a loophole in the agreement to do something as drastic as this, however, with China as the strongest communist country in the world, it wouldn't be inconsistent of America to target them for a government change which, I would speculate, scares Chinese officials.