

### Science is the Future

Without scientific advancements in our world, there would never have been any advancement in any field. The world today is facing some severe challenges; most can be addressed by scientific research. Science can be utilized to improve the world today in endless ways. Some of the main challenges that we are facing today are global warming, California's drought, and the lack of alternative energy resources.

Global warming has become such a controversial topic over the last ten years. Now, however, as my physics teacher stated "It is only about politics now." Especially with the severe drop in temperatures around the world people are starting to wonder if the whole global warming theory was a hoax. Global warming, however, as Al Gore stated in An Inconvenient Truth, is that in the last decades the Earth has been facing an overall warming trend. So therefore even though it is cold now, when summer comes our warming trend will continue. One of the effects of global warming is severe weather, hot or cold. I believe that science is the only thing that can end all this debate about global warming. Although there will always be controversy with the research of scientists, we can find ways to stop hurting our planet. Although common sense now, without science we would never have realized that our pollution from factories, carbon dioxide from rotting trees, the burning of coal, natural gasses and fossil fuels could have such a negative effect on our planet. As discussed later science can help look for alternative energy resources and ways to stop or lessen pollution and eventually restore our planet.

Though a few weeks of heavy rain helped relieve some of the drought's worst fears, California is in the midst of possibly the worst drought ever. In January, Governor

Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought emergency. California saw only 61% of its typical January snowfall this year, straining a water system that is under pressure from a growing population. Due to this lack of water, summer water restrictions will most likely be worse than before. California is dependent on winter precipitation to keep reservoirs full through the summer. This drought will affect California's agriculture severely and restaurants, which require a significant amount of water, will be put in more pressure while already struggling in the economy. Engineering, a type of science, can relieve Californians from the drought. Earlier this winter while Californians were waiting for rain, it was flooding on the east coast. If an underground water system was built water could be transported from one coast to the other. Although this project would be highly expensive, the amount of agriculture it would save would pay it off in the years.

Alternative energy resources are our future. We need to find ways to make solar energy, biomass energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, and hydropower energy readily available and efficient to today's consumers. These energies can be less expensive in the long run and are better for our planet. Scientists can find ways to ease the process of obtaining these energies so that they can be used all around the planet. Science can help us learn how to use solar energy to heat our water and food. It can help us learn how to use biomass energy to generate fuel to heat our homes and vehicles. Since scientists are already working on these techniques the future is looking good.

Although it seems depressing that our success without science seems indeterminable, that the world might have stopped years ago without science, it is reality. Science is intertwined with so many subjects that it is something that everyone needs to be educated in; it exists in everything. So the question is not really how can science be

used to improve our world today, the questions is how can the world be improved without science?