

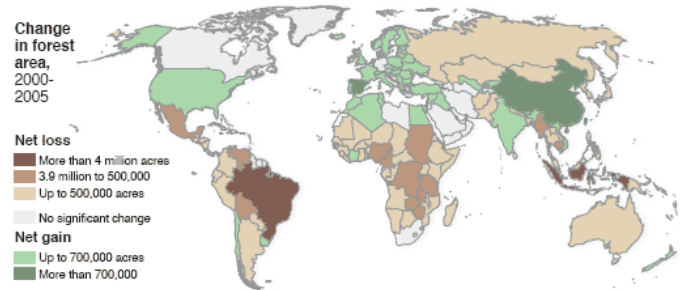
Changing the Conversation on Climate Change, via the Amazon Rainforest

English 102: Critical Reading, Writing, and Research

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Rain forests vanishing at rapid rate

From Brazil to central Africa to Asia's archipelagos, human encroachment is shrinking the world's forests, spewing heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Africa is losing trees fastest. The world's nations have begun talks on a plan to pay poorer nations to preserve their forests.



SOURCES: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; ESRI



AP Photo by Alberto Cesar – Greenpeace – HO/AP

The big idea: Our personal perspectives and perceptions—including those on climate change—are shaped by background, experience, and context, including global context.

The course requirement: One paper of 5-7 pages that develops an argument based on at least five sources located using the research process, at least one of which must address a counterargument

The assignment: Brazil's Amazon rainforest plays a pivotal role in mitigating climate change by converting CO₂ into vegetation. About half the world's forests have already been cleared, contributing to global warming, species extinction, erosion, and soil degradation. Indigenous people lose their homelands when rainforests are cleared. But the cleared land contributes to the economy by providing fuel, lumber, jobs, and land for farming, ranching, and construction. Developing countries also ask why developed countries have used the largest chunk of the world's resources and caused most of the warming, but are lobbying for limits on how poorer nations can use their own land. *Taking these environmental, cultural, economic and political realities into account, students will write an essay arguing for a compromise position.*

Key course competencies (shortened):

- Identify and respond effectively to a range of audiences in written and oral assignments
- Formulate research questions that aid in exploration and analysis
- Participate constructively in discourse that may be controversial in nature

Global competencies from AAC&U (shortened):

- Reflects on how own attitudes and beliefs are different from other cultures or communities
- Incorporates alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas
- Identifies own and others' assumptions and relevant contexts when presenting a position
- Specific position takes into account the complexities of an issue