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Rhet 101

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Climate Change is REAL: STOP!

I went to this event in Urbana-Champaign Thursday, October 27 at 7pm - 9 pm, which they held a movie called *Before the Flood*. The movie *Before the Flood* was important because they explained about how many scientists believed that climate change was real, dangerous, and it's affecting every living things on this earth. People that were hosting this event was the Student Sustainability Committee. They were holding this committee because they wanted to show people of Urbana-Champaign how climate change is real. The Student Sustainability Committee are experts with this topic because they are the ones who know more about the environment in Urbana-Champaign than others. The movie *Before the Flood* is sending urgent messages to many people on this earth about how dangerous climate change is, and how we can prevent this from happening.

Before going to the event to watch *Before the Flood*, I did some research on the movie topic. I watched the trailer on the movie, and it kind of surprised me because Leonardo DiCaprio was the main actor, and he was going around asking scientist about climate change. In fact, I even went online and read audience reviews about this movie topic on how 68% people liked the movie, which was also very surprising to me because most movies aren't rated that high. While reading some audience's review there was interesting ones which stood up to me, "It's not an easy movie to watch, but I think Leo does a nice job as somebody exploring the topic, allowing actual experts to do the talking and showing the Climate Change Denial machine for what it is.

This is a very valuable film, and one that I really hope changes minds about this incredibly important topic.” (S.). He’s also giving us an urgent message about climate change, and want many people to receive this message so that we can fix it. It really got me pumped up to go watch the movie because reading that review, I was probably going to see many biologists, or people who cared about the environment at the event. They probably hope to get the information about climate change, and many scientist’s view on it. This event was advertised on Facebook where many Urbana-Champaign students can look at the event to see if they are interested in going.

While watching the movie *Before the Flood*, I’ve noticed that there were a lot of Urbana-Champaign students, and families at the screening. They seemed to be excited about the movies as I was to know more about the movie, and how it is important. When I was watching the movie, they introduced Leonardo DiCaprio as a messenger of peace and he delivered a speech saying, “I feel incredibly honored that they chose me to be the United Nations messenger of peace on climate change. I stand before you not as an expert, but as a concerned citizen. I want to do everything I can to learn more about this issue. See for myself exactly what’s going on and what can be done” (DiCaprio). When he delivered the speech, I felt really surprised because I’ve never knew that DiCaprio had this kind of heart. While he was mentioning that speech, I felt like many people in the audience could relate to the same way as him. People understands that climate change is real, and it’s affecting many people on this earth, but they can’t really do anything about it.

Many scientists were explaining how climate change is real. There were some that stood out to me because they knew a lot about climate change, and these scientist had evidence to

support their argument. Michael Brune was explaining about fossil fuels and how dangerous it's becoming to our economy, "If we're gonna fight climate change effectively, we have to start by acknowledging that most of our economy is based on fossil fuels [.....] Now, in the first couple decades of the 21st century, in order to sustain our dependence on fossil fuels, we're going to very risky, very extreme new sources" (qtd. in *Before the Flood*). I really felt disappointed knowing the fact that this is what's going on in economy right now. It really frustrates me how no one is doing anything to stop this, and many scientists are proving the point about climate change. My thoughts on this was that our earth is poisoned because people are destroying many forests, in which they are destroying many animals habitat to produce fossil fuel. Continuously, DiCaprio went to the Arctic to talk Dr. Enric Sala, and he explains how, "We are burning so many fuels that the ice is melting. [.....] The ice is melting pretty fast, and it's melting much faster than before. 2040, you will be able to sail over the North Pole. There's going to be no sea ice left in the Arctic Ocean in the summer" (Sala). When Dr. Sala was talking about this during the movie, I was looking at many people's faces, and they all seemed pretty scared, and disappointed. I could tell because many people's face expression started to change. If this keeps occurring not only this is going to affect the weather pattern, it's going to affect every living creatures on this earth. Because of the fossil fuels, many animals around the world are declining. When I watched this scene, I could imagine how Dr. Sala felt about the Arctic animals because he was showing DiCaprio the Narwhals, and he was explaining how most of the Arctic animals are declining, and he said, "I can't live a planet without these animals" (Sala). Hearing him say that really touched my heart because he's trying to do everything in his hand to save the last bit of the Arctic animals.

Some scientist were explaining how we can stop the climate change from occurring if one could be the leader, and what people could do to stop the climate change from happening.

Scientist Sunita Narain explains to DiCaprio how U.S. should be the leader and stop this climate change from happening, "We are doing more investment in solar today, China is doing much more investment in solar today than the U.S. Is. What is the U.S. doing which the rest of the world can learn from? You're a fossil-addicted country [...]" (Narain). Narain is explaining how U.S. isn't doing anything to stop the climate change from happening meanwhile other countries are doing way more than the U.S. She believes that if U.S. were to be the leader than many of the people would follow to end the climate change. Not only do I agree with what she said, I'm pretty sure that many people who were watching the movie would honestly agree with her because U.S. should be the leader because they are the ones who are addicted to fossil fuels. Additionally, Gidon Eshel, who studies the effects of agriculture on climate explains how you can stop the climate change by changing our diet. Eshel explains "In the U.S., 47% of land is used for food production, and of that, the lion's share is just to grow feed for cattle. The things that we actually eat, like fruit, vegetable, nuts, it's a percent. Most importantly, cows produce methane, and methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. The way cows produce methane is that they eat as much as they can, and when they are chewing, a whole bunch of methane is burped through the mouth into the atmosphere" (Eshel). I felt startled to the whole fact on how cows are the ones that are affecting the climate change too. Because cows are producing methane(CH₄), it's affecting our economy because Eshel explains how, "1 molecule of CH₄ is 23 molecules of CO₂" (Eshel). This is not good for our economy because that means that the cows are taking most of the carbon dioxide of this earth. To prevent this from happening, he suggested how we

should start eating chicken instead of cows. It's because chickens produce far less methane than cows. Even though I don't really like chicken as much as cows, I would honestly take a big step to start eating chickens more if that's what's going to help our earth.

Therefore, after the movie it really personally affected, not only me, but others too because it's talking about people on this earth, and climate change is extremely dangerous. If climate change gets too severe, it can possibly knock out half of the people on this earth. I learned a lot about climate change, and many scientists argument on it. This event might enrich our academic community in some way because we are learning a lot about climate change, and knowing that we can watch a movie about scientist talking about climate change is really helpful because many people think climate change is not real, but once they watch the movie and hear from scientists about climate change then they will change their minds about climate change. In all honesty, I learned a lot about climate change, and I believe that this message is really urgent and it should get across to everyone.

Work Cited

Before the Flood. Dir. Fisher Stevens. N.p., 21 Oct. 2016.

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