Oral Assignment #2 “The Great Debates”

10 points May 3 and May 5

What do you think we should do, as a global society, about the global change problems that we have been discussing? We will explore these ideas in the format of debating postulated statements, which will be chosen by you. Attached is a list of possible debate statements. But it would be more fun if we debated statements that you came up with. Please send me your idea of an interesting statement to debate and it will be included for consideration.

You will select the debate statements by voting, in class, on Thursday April 28. Then we will check the (randomized) list which tells you if you are on the pro or con side and which statement you are debating. There will be three or four people on each side. You will have some time in class to work on this with your team. You may find yourself advocating a position which you disagree with. This can help us to understand other points of view and to be more effective in explaining our own point of view.

To receive 5 points, please come to class both days, and participate in your debate, and for the other 5 points, turn in a brief description of your contribution to your side of the debate statement.
GLOBAL CHANGE DEBATE STATEMENTS: Vote for six statements.

1. The U.S. should cut the military budget to fund environmental programs.
2. Nuclear energy is a viable solution to the current energy problem.
3. Impoverished people cannot concern themselves with environmental issues.
4. Education is the key to solving environmental problems.
5. The U.S. should intervene in countries with tropical deforestation.
6. The definition of economic value should be expanded.
7. Global warming will likely improve global agricultural production.
8. Computers are good for the world.
9. The U.S. should regulate companies' environmental impacts more carefully.
10. The U.S. should impose a large gas tax.
11. The worth of human civilization is greater than the worth of biodiversity.
12. Carbon trading is good for the planet.
13. We need to change our habits radically to help the planet.
14. Capitalism is destroying the earth and corporate globalization is at the core of this crisis.
15. The U.S. decision to sign the Paris climate accord is the right decision.
16. Global warming is causing increasingly extreme weather.
17. Buying green is becoming a useless fad.
18. Biofuels alleviate greenhouse warming.
19. Genetically modified foods are good for the world.
20. Yes, you can gain 10 pounds by eating a pound of chocolate.
21. Traditional universities are obsolete.
22. The truth is easier to agree upon with increasing availability of information.
23. Electronic books are better for the environment than paper books.
24. The west coast fires are caused by global warming.
25. ** Your debate statement! **