

## NO.15 Opinions of Junior High School Students

Recently I had an opportunity to give a lecture about a global warming toward senior students at junior high school in Tokyo. Here I like to introduce some of essays that students wrote. Many opinions are straightforward and have a point, so seemingly there are many things I can learn.

Nowadays, although there have been many tragic news involved with children, I realized that most children are concerned about the global environment issue, more earnestly than adults. Some miswritten words or omissions needed correction, but the essays were left in the original.

A student whose initial is A.S. wrote,

Lately I had many occasion to hear about the issue of global warming. However, it seems to me as if it were somebody's problem, not my concern. At elementary school, I have done detailed research on a global warming issue for a group project.

Today, we live in the affluent society with materially oversupply. On the other hand, until the Edo period, the demand and supply were well balanced. At this time there was no problem such as destruction of the ozone layer, or rise in temperature. The industrial growth happened in the Meiji period, which stimulated competition among countries. As a result, the development was boosted to the level the earth can't tolerate. It took some time to draw people's attention, and indeed it became an imminent concern after problems such as global warming, desertification and acid rain became obvious.

Why couldn't we be satisfied with the life in the Edo time? Why did it take so much time for having noticed the environmental issues? It is wonderful to improve our living standard, but it is also important to keep the balance of nature. As human being, each one of us is responsible for what has been happening in the natural environment. As the speaker mentioned so, we should start from small things and willingly make an effort to improve the environment. Today's lecture made me truly think about global problem again.

M.T. wrote,

I know what is the global warming, but do not have the detail knowledge about it. From today's lecture, I realized each individual needs to cooperate on the prevention of global warming. Our future society will become the recycling-based. There are many things we can do, by reducing and recycling garbage and protecting the environment. I hope that many people take an active part in this movement. This is not an individual matter, but the problem that involves everyone on earth, so people need to cooperate. Today's lecture was very informative, which taught me to treat things with great care.

K.S. wrote,

"The increases of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide or methane lead to global warming." One of the key issues here is population growth and fossil fuel consuming. When the earth becomes overpopulated, there will be no space to reside, and then

fossil fuel will run out, which people can't maintain the current standard of living. To prevent global warming, at least we can begin with recycling or decreasing waste materials. Simultaneously, it is essential to work on the research and development of new resources and energy. I am confident that continuously making a small effort certainly helps to prevent global warming and other man-made disasters. I personally would like to take action in various manners for the prevention of global warming.

R.M. stated,

I was aware that global warming will cause various problems. However, I realized it was a more serious issue than I had imagined after I learned Japan could possibly sink into sea. It is risky to behave by thinking only of the present matter, and I pay great respect to the adults who give a careful consideration about the distant future. In the near future it will be our responsibility to play such role. I will bring today's lesson to my mind and work hard to save our planet. In these days the public attention has been away from the earth and directed toward the outer space. I don't want the earth to be used up and then abandoned.

A.O. wrote,

Today's lecture made me realize that the earth would be contaminated unless doing something. Everyone needs to stop being self-interested, and should individually start thinking about the entire earth. I can try to reduce waste materials, and I need to immediately start to execute things I can and should do. It will put ourselves as well as the earth in danger unless we preserve nature and greenness for the environmental protection.

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