

Debates for Sierra Nevada Institute on Climate Change, 2010

	Side A	Side B
1	The uncertainty in climate change models and predictions means that we should limit how much we invest in speculation about unknown changes	The uncertainty in climate change models and predictions means that we should make large efforts to prevent possible disasters
2	The best way to deal with climate change is through scientific advancements	The best way to deal with climate change is through advocacy and activism
3	Most of our focus in dealing with climate change should be on the affected plants, animals, and ecosystems	Most of our focus in dealing with climate change should be on the impacts on human society
4	A green economy can arise rapidly and spontaneously once the value of a sustainable society becomes apparent	Only strict changes in government policy can bring about the necessary changes in our carbon footprints in time to avoid severe disruption
5	It is important to remain optimistic about our chances to survive and preserve what is important to us	Given the severity of the likely changes, it is unrealistic to remain optimistic about our future

Debate format

Primary statement and arguments in support: Side A, speaker 1 Side B, speaker 1
 Arguments about weaknesses in other side: Side B, speaker 2 Side A, speaker 2
 Response and wrapping up: Side A, speaker 3 Side B, speaker 3