

**MCHC 2002: Macaulay Honors College Seminar 4:
Shaping the Future of New York City
Professor Lewis**

Climate narrative – An essay reflecting your personal experience of climate change

The sociological imagination asks us to examine the relationship between public issues and private troubles. How has the public issue of climate change affected your personal orbit? How have you experienced climate change firsthand?

In a 2 to 4 page essay, describe an experience of a place you have lived or visited, and explain how climate change affected your experience. Be specific.

Consider how your biography, history, group membership (race, class, gender, ethnicity, age, etc.), culture and social structure influenced the experience (your personal orbit). Is your experience universal (in other words, does everyone have the same experience in that setting)? How would the experience be different for someone who lived in another era, another culture, or who had a different social identity?

Place your experience of climate change within the intersection of your individual biography and your history. In other words, situate your personal experience in the larger context of climate change as a public issue. Use evidence from at least two sources to do this. The evidence can be a research article, statistics from a government report, or other reputable data. Recall that public issues affect more than just a small number of people (refer back to C. Wright Mills' discussion of unemployment, divorce, and war). Discuss the evidence in relation to the experience you described.

In addition to exploring a firsthand account of your experience of climate change, this assignment aims to connect your individual biography to history. Students will present their narratives in class and we will use them to generate ideas for group projects.

<p>Some logistics: Create a descriptive title for your paper. Double space the paper and use one inch margins and 12 point font. Cite your sources. Late papers will be penalized one full grade per day (i.e. from B+ to C+). Papers will be evaluated based on: 1) the quality of the firsthand description, 2) the discussion of biography, history and group membership, 3) the situation of the personal experience in the larger historical context, 4) the quality and integration of evidence, and 5) the quality of writing and proper source citations.</p>
