

An Evaluation of “Why Bother?”

Student C Sample

Western Illinois University, WESL program

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In the chapter “Why Bother?” Michael Pollan (2009) argued that it is important to grow our own backyard vegetable garden to protect the environment and decrease CO₂ emissions. He noticed that climate change is a serious problem which happens to the earth and affect people and environment in a negative way. Moreover, people have personal choices which also contribute to these problems. According to Michael Pollan, people should change their lifestyle to decrease their carbon footprint because climate changes occur in fast rate. He said everyone should bother because if only one person bother and change his or her life, this will not be enough to help our environment and community. Also, he tried to give people many easy solutions to solve this problem, such as growing their own vegetable garden. Moreover, he explained the problem of “specialization” and how people always follow specific one role in their life according to what they believe and what they familiar to do in the society without taking care with the rising environmental issues. Then, Pollan gave people an idea about using cheap energy in order to help the environment by doing easy things, such as changing the light bulbs. He encouraged every person to have “cheap-energy mind” and try to make difference and work to help the environment. People are able to do small things like planting gardens which can be combined together and considered as a first step to stop and solve climate change crisis (Pollan, 2009).

In general, Michael Pollan in this chapter argued about important issue but he did not convince me. Pollan is one of the famous well-known authors, journalists and editors. He had a lot of certification for his articles which published in many magazines. Also, he published a lot of books related to food, such as *Food Rules*, *In Defense of Food*, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, and the latest one was *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*. Moreover, he is the Knight Professor of Science and Environmental Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley. The author is qualified to write in this topic, but considering all of these qualifications are not

enough to support his argument. As a reader, in my opinion, the article was difficult to understand because the writer used a lot of cultural references which is unknown to many readers, such as when he wrote “I need the Jimmy Carter signature cardigan”. Also, he used some formal language, but mostly his language tends to be too informal and not clear, such as using “puniness” word in his article which considered weak word. Sometimes the author mentioned unclear idea without enough explanation or details. In addition to this, I think the writer has many biases. One of these biases was toward China because he talked about having “evil twin”, and he repeated it two times. The author further said that “Scientists’ projections that seemed”, and “many others” without any information about these scientists or people, so the article also contains bogus claim. All of these considered weakness in the article and they make it inappropriate to use as a credible reference. Therefore, I believe that the author did not clarify his idea and did not present it in good way to convince the reader.

Reference

Pollan, M. (2009). Why bother?. In K. Weber (Ed.), *Food, inc.: How industrial food is making us sicker, fatter and poorer-and what you can do about it* (pp. 169-177). New York, NY: PublicAffairs.