

Save Our Earth

(Ten-second tableaux with a globe and posters, etc.)

Reporter 1: Hi! I am reporting live from Michigan, where it's 95 degrees Fahrenheit. That's right -- 95 degrees Fahrenheit!

(Overlap)

Reporter 2: Hello! I'm here on this mid-November morning, and it is 72 degrees outside.

(Overlap)

Reporter 3: Today is Saturday, December 12, and it is 89 degrees, folks. That's almost 90. Now, call me crazy, but this shouldn't be going on.

(Overlap)

Reporter 4: My name is Sally Chang, and I am—believe it or not—on the continent of Antarctica, where the last of the fossil fuel petroleum is being dug up as we speak. Out here, it's a mad rush between BP and Exxon. Now, authorities say there's enough for only ten million cars to fill up twice. Fuel-efficient cars won't even help us now, experts say. What's our next source of fuel? Does the government even know? I'm Sally Chang reporting live from Antarctica. Back to you, Rick.

Reporter 5: Thanks, Sally. Today, we have a report of record-breaking temperatures. Highs will be anywhere between the upper 90s and the low 100s.

(Overlap)

Reporter 6: There's a storm coming our way and a tornado heading toward you. I suggest that you guys down there prepare for one of the biggest tornadoes you've had in, I don't know, about fifteen years.

(Reporters freeze and hold a ten-second silence. When the ten seconds are over, the reporters talk quietly and the Freezer comes on stage via stage right.)

Freezer: Folks, our world is coming to an end. *(Paces left and right for three seconds.)* Freeze! *(A tableaux lasts until end of next line. The cue is "big." However, the Freezer keeps pacing the stage.)* Let's go back to when technology and pollution weren't so big. *(Faint noise giving the feel of time travel for five seconds.)*

Reporter from Past 1: Hello! I'm outside on this cold winter morning, and it is 40 degrees. Be sure to dress warmly. *(Freezes.)*

Freezer: You see! No signs of global warming or anything. OK, let's go and visit twelve

years ago. It's 2005. *(Cue the five-second time-travel noise.)*

(A ten-second tableaux with people talking on phones, texting, listening to iPods, etc.)

Reporter from Past 2: Temperatures are slowly rising, and we're in mid-November, with a current temperature of 72. *(Time-travel noise.)*

Freezer: And now, here we are in the present. *(Cue talking reporters, sirens, chaos, etc. Freezer calmly exits via stage right. The next line is said when the Freezer is offstage.)*

Reporter 2: Experts note that in 2007, it was said that we had ten years to clean up this mess. *(Voice level rising to show anger.)* Yet here we are ten years later, in 2017, and what have we done? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! That's what we've done.

Reporter 5: Now, Bob, I would have to disagree.

Reporter 2: What have we done? What have we done to prevent the world from getting to this point? Can you tell me one thing?

Reporter 5: Well, individuals have taken little steps. But as a whole, you're right. All we've done is melted glaciers, released chemicals into our air, put a hole in our ozone layer, and polluted our freshwater supply.

Reporter 3: But there were people who did things such as recycling, cutting off lights when leaving a room, and—

(Cuts off.)

Reporter 1: And people using natural resources for energy?

Reporter 4: Wow!

Reporter 5: Yeah, I think 12 percent of Spain's energy was powered by wind.

Reporter 6: Hard to believe the way things look these days.

Reporter 2: True. But, a lot of that stuff is still going on today. For example, people still recycle.

Reporter 4: Well, if so many people were working so hard, why didn't efforts pay off? Why didn't all that stuff work? I mean, a whole country ran on 12 percent wind power.

Reporter 5: Part of the reason it didn't work could be because not enough of the world's leading officials took action. Basically, we needed more Al Gores and Orlando Blooms. Also, airplanes, which are a common source of travel, make clouds. And the more clouds, the more storm clouds, which means, you know, more storms. And major changes in

weather lead to global warming and other things that destroy our Earth.

(Reporters talk quietly for about five seconds, until next line.)

Camera Operator: We're live in five, four, three, two, one. *(He slowly fades out. The news reporters prepare to speak, but they are interrupted by the three tree huggers.)*

Tree Huggers: Save our Earth! Save our Earth! Save our Earth! Save our Earth! *(Each tree hugger has a sign with a picture of Earth.)*

One of the Tree Huggers: *(Others continue chanting, but a little softer.)* Do you not realize that we are all going to die if we don't try our hardest to save our Earth? The Earth will survive, but we won't! Either that, or some really big crisis will occur. Heck, we've already messed up a lot, but let's do what we can. So stop reporting traffic jams, and start reporting the real issues.

Reporter 1: Personally, I'd have to agree with her. I can tell you right now that Bob, our weatherman, will tell you that it's 80-something degrees out. Now, I'm no scientist or forecaster, but using my own judgment, I know that this early in the year, the temperatures should be no higher than the 40s. You know why? *(Tone elevating.)* Because we are in the middle of January!

Reporter 3: Wait—you said we've already messed up. What do you mean?

Tree Hugger: Well, for starters, there's a hole in our ozone layer. We are slowly ruining our freshwater supply. And we can't tell winter from spring, November from April.

Reporter 6: Amazing!

Reporter 4: Gosh, who knew we were doing so much?

Reporter 5: And that's just for starters. *(Sounds both horrified and amazed.)*

Reporter 2: Yeah, but I know exactly what to do! *(Getting excited. Seeming proud of himself.)* Let's air poetry and stuff that expresses people's opinions on global warming. We could encourage our viewers to be eco-friendly.

(Eight-second blackout.)

(A spotlight shines on this person while the rest of the stage is dark.)

Presenter 1: The Earth is our home, so we should preserve it. Through global warming, we'll only destroy it. The Earth, the Earth, it's our homeland. If we destroy it, we have no more land.

(Eight-second blackout.)

(Individual spotlights shine on these people, while the rest of the stage is dark.)

Tree Huggers: Save our Earth! Save our Earth! Save our Earth! *(One at a time, a spotlight goes off for each person. Until the character's light has gone off and he or she is no longer visible, he or she continues chanting.)*

(Five-second blackout.)

(A spotlight shines on this person while the rest of the stage is dark.)

Presenter 1: I would like to show a video I saw on YouTube. Hopefully, it will encourage people to change the way they treat our Earth. *(Play fifty to fifty-five seconds of Global Warming Reflection Video, by Alexander Lupus, available at YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=o7V9suZRipQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7V9suZRipQ).)*

(Spotlight cuts off right after video is done. Another cuts on right after the first is off. The second one shines on the next presenter.)

Tree Hugger: I love my planet. But some people are only concerned about profits. Well, I have a question for them. Is it worth having so much money if there will be nothing to spend it on? What will you invest in when the oil runs out? Think about it. Save our Earth!

(Five-second blackout.)

(A spotlight comes on.)

Reporter 3: I have a song I want to share with everyone tuned in today. I found it on iTunes, and everyone should listen. *(Play forty seconds of the song "Global Warming," by Niyorah.)*

Reporter 6: I think everyone should eat organic foods, recycle, and use natural products.

Reporter 1: To our government: Pass a law that says every major car maker, such as Honda, Toyota, and Chevrolet, must sell at least two models of eco-friendly cars at a cheaper price than the regular cars.

(Everybody who presented gets up and recites one of their lines over and over again until their individual spotlight goes off. The second-to-last person visible is Presenter 1, who recites the whole poem, and the spotlight goes off. The last speaker is one of the Tree Huggers saying, "Save our Earth.")

(Ten-second blackout.)

Reporter 4: Well, that has been today's segment. Hopefully, you all will continue

recycling if you do or start if you don't, cut off lights when leaving a room, and start buying eco-friendly cars and energy-efficient lightbulbs. For more information on what you can do, type in "eco-friendly" on your computer in the location where you would type the URL.

Freezer: Freeze! (*Everyone else freezes.*) I think they are finally starting to get the message. Maybe in a couple of years, if people stay on the right track, they won't have to do any more segments on global warming. Hopefully, people remember that damage to the environment doesn't affect only the planet. It affects all of us. Unfreeze! (*Exits stage right.*)

Reporter 4: I'm Sally Chang, saying, "Save our Earth."

(*Blackout.*)
(*Play the song "Global Warming."*)

Written by Kelsea, a participant in the Arena Stage Student Playwrights Project.