

## LESSON 1: CLIMATE CHANGE...WHERE DO I STAND?

*Given that this is a science class, it only seems reasonable to discuss the hot button topic of **CLIMATE CHANGE**. I want to emphasize that the activities for the upcoming unit are in no way meant to be a political dialogue. They are meant to foster a conversation and to allow for personal introspection. You will be asked to scrutinize data from both sides of the argument to establish and evaluate how the information speaks to you.*

*Be a good scientist. Be willing to take a close look at the evidence and let it drive you toward asking the appropriate questions to derive an informed opinion of your own. As you contribute to the dialogue, be prepared to reinforce your point with evidence.*

### **DO NOW:**

**Step 1:** What type of buzz surrounds this topic?

**Create a list of words that spring to mind when you hear the word “climate change.” List at least 3, but feel free to add more. Words can be positive or negative.**

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**Step 2:** Where do others stand on this topic?

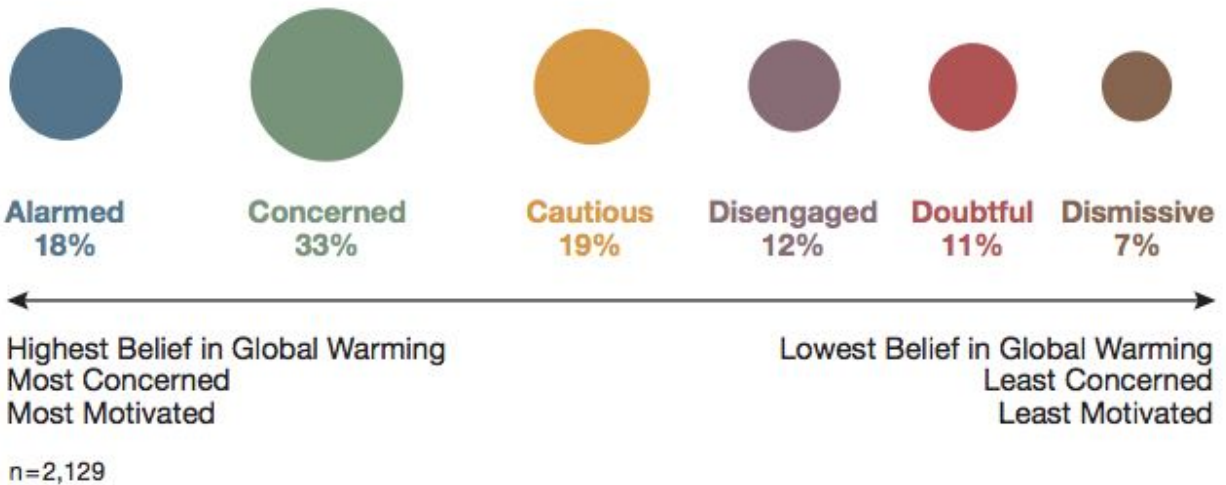
**Read the attached article: [Global Warming's Six Americas](#)**

**Step 3:** Where do you believe you fit in?

**Evaluate the following 8 figures regarding the belief system of the six American audiences.**

**Figure 1:** Proportion of the U.S. adult population in the Six Americas

*Proportion represented by area*



**Give a brief summary that describes each of the six audiences from the article.**

**Alarmed:**

**Concerned:**

**Cautious:**

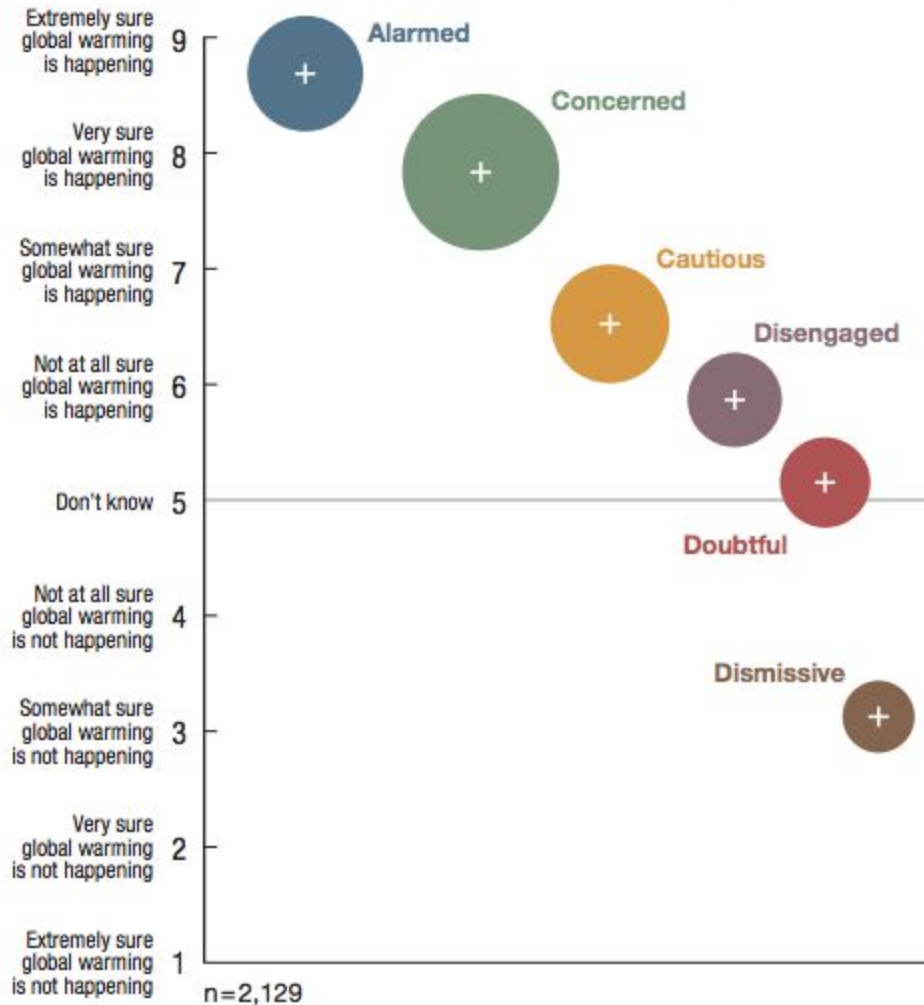
**Disengaged:**

**Doubtful:**

**Dismissive:**

**Figure 2: Certainty of belief in the reality of global warming**

*Do you think that global warming is happening?  
How sure are you that global warming is happening? or  
How sure are you that global warming is not happening?*

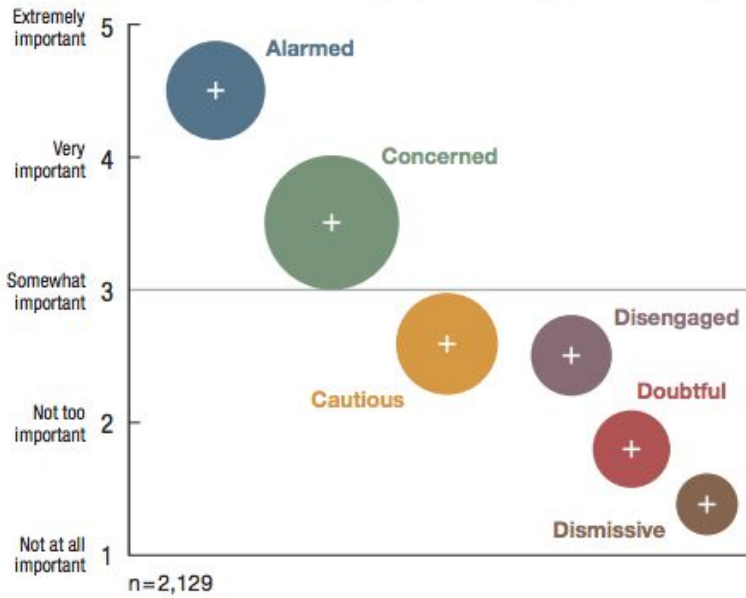


**Where do you think you fit in the spectrum of belief according to the descriptions in Figure 2?**

**I most closely identify with :**

**Figure 3: Personal importance of global warming**

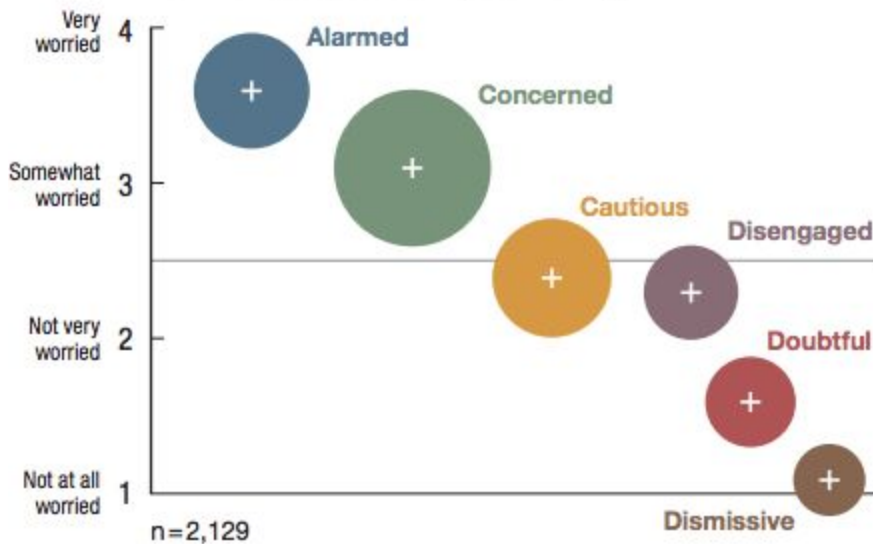
*How important is the issue of global warming to you personally?*



NOTE: In these and all subsequent figures, the size (area) of the circles and width of the columns represent the proportion of the American public in each audience segment. The small cross at the center of each circle represents the segment average response to the question.

**Figure 4: Worry**

*How worried are you about global warming?*

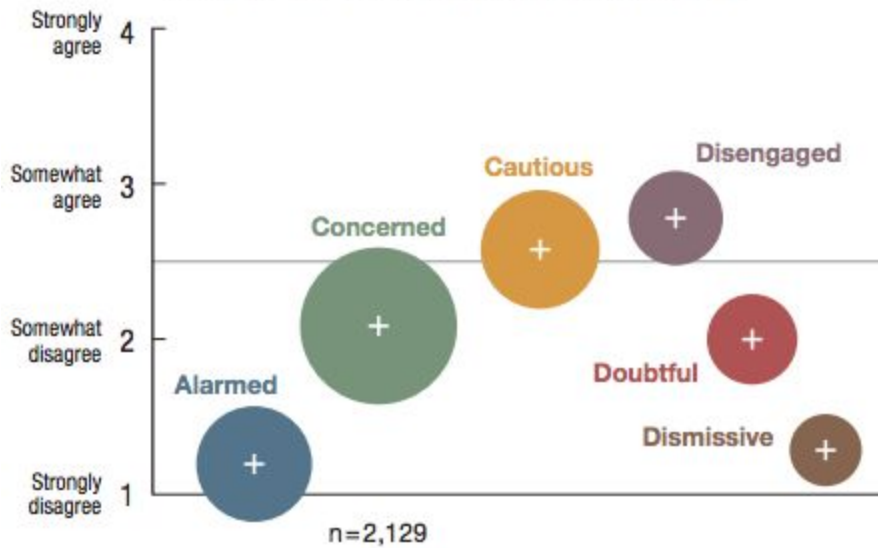


**Using figures 3 and 4, how would you identify in terms of personal concern?**

**I most closely identify with :**

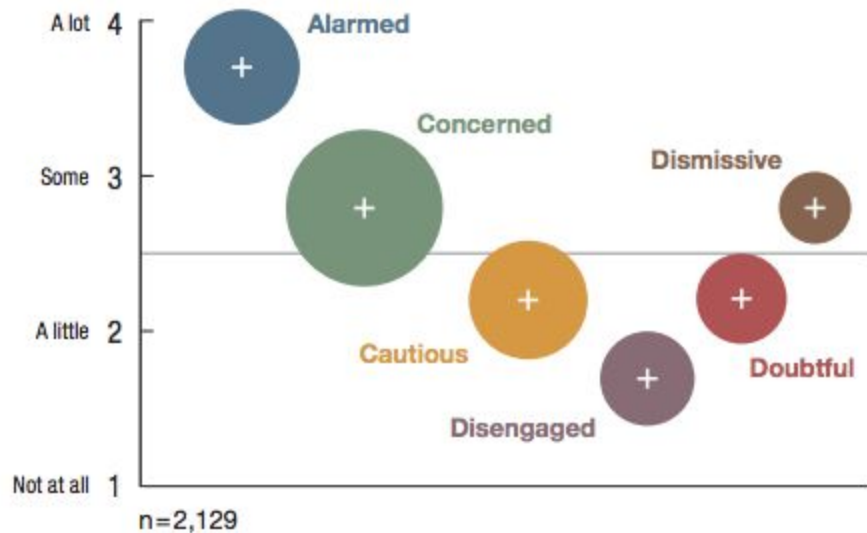
**Figure 5: Attitudinal certainty**

*"I could easily change my mind about global warming."*



**Figure 6: Amount of thought about global warming**

*How much had you thought about global warming before today?*



**With respect to being open minded, which group from Figure 5 do you most associate with? Answer:**

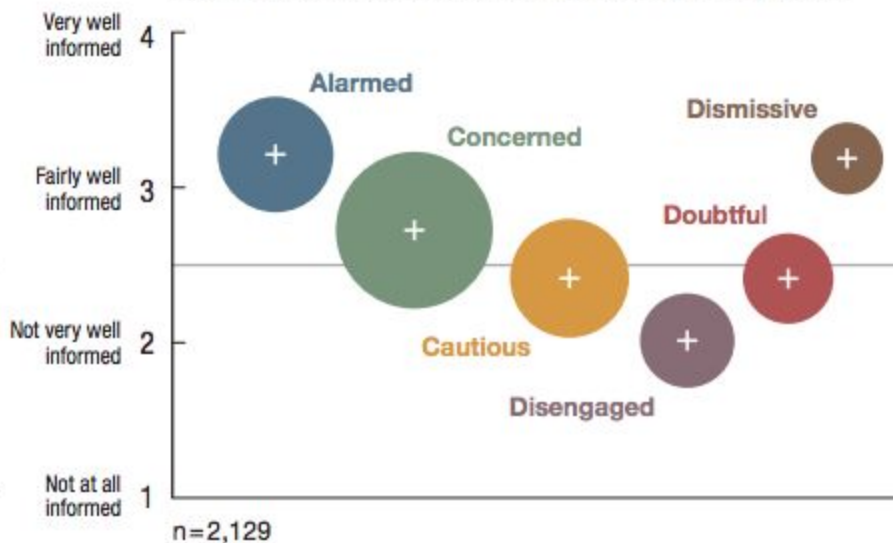
**Which group in Figure 6 best represents the amount of time you spend thinking about global warming? Answer:**

**Figure 7: Self-assessed knowledge**

*Personally, do you think that you are well informed or not about ...*

- ... the different causes of global warming
- ... the different consequences of global warming
- ... ways in which we can reduce global warming.

*Results shown below are the average of the three responses.*



**Based on the information from Figure 7, which group best fits your level of background knowledge on the following:**

**Causes of Global Warming:**

**Consequences of Global Warming:**

**Ways to Reduce Global Warming:**