

citizenship. If you are an environmentalist, you need to be able to respond to these arguments. If you are a critic of environmentalism, you will find some state-of-the-art arguments here.

List some of the important world improvements that Lomborg discusses in this chapter.

What are some of the principal problems that still remain?

BL recommends a different method for solving world problems, distinct from the characteristic understandings of environmentalism. How does Lomborg recommend that we approach doing good?

What are some of the principal forms of the “precautionary principle”? What is Lomborg’s response to this idea?

Which Lomborg arguments do you find persuasive? Which do you find weak?

Michael Pollan “Why Bother?”

Q: Why is this text on the reading list?

A: Pollan is an influential modern environmentalist who makes a good case for the argument that individuals should make major changes in their behavior in light of scientists’ worries about climate change.

What is Pollan’s response to the question “why bother”?

David Mackay from **Sustainable Energy – Without the Hot Air**

Q: Why is this text on the reading list?

A: This is from a recent (2009) book by Mackay, a professor of physics at Cambridge. It sets out evidence-based arguments about climate trends, about the causal links between our daily choices and those climate trends, and about concrete changes that we can make in our daily practices if we want to work towards being more responsible about our role in promoting dangerous trends. Mackay explains both why and how we might adopt behaviors that are more environmentally responsible. The examples Mackay draws upon are all British, but most of them also apply to life in the United States.

What does Mackay mean by “stuff”?

What are some of the principal environmental costs of “stuff”? What are the principal factors (name from 3-5) that make up the environmental cost of “stuff”?

List five individual actions you could take to shrink your environmental footprint.

