

# Week 21: Writing prompts — Global warming; evidence

## If I was president

BY CHRISTIE OJALA

Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Grade 9

If I was the president  
I would get rid of pollution  
I would make our world healthy  
I would try to make peace with everyone  
I would bring our world together to help each other  
To stop starvation  
I don't believe in global warming  
So my main focuses are pollution, starvation and peace.

## Final copy

BY RACHAEL DUBOIS

Benson Village School, Grade 8

I don't want to be	Sooner or later
Your rough-draft	I can't be
Your mistake	Just your
Someone you learn from	Rough-draft
I don't want to be	I've gone through
Used	Way too much
Cheated on	To be left
Or someone to be	For you
Forgotten	To walk away
I don't want you	I can't
To bruise me anymore	Have you
To the point	Bruise me
Of broken	Anymore
I want this	I refuse
Insanity	To break
To stop	I love you
Because	Forever
I don't want to be	I deserve
Your rough-draft	To be
I love you too much	More than
I have to be	Just a
More than that	Rough-draft
I have to know	I have to be
You'll stop	I demand
Covering your mistakes	To be
And using that whiteout	Your
The bottle	Final Copy...
Has to run dry	

## The day's end

BY NATHAN BEAUREGARD

Benson Village School, Grade 8

I can't believe the day is out!  
I feel like a child  
On Christmas morn.  
Only five minutes left.  
The clock is ticking  
So many things to do  
After school.  
Swing on the swings.  
Teeter and totter  
On the teeter totter.  
Slide on the slide.  
Spin on the wheel.  
Climb on the jungle gym.  
Watch T.V.  
Play games  
And play tag.  
Oh, I can't believe the day is out!  
Oh what?  
What's this?  
Detention?  
For day-dreaming  
In class?  
OH, NOOOOOO!!!!!!!

## The power

BY MILES LATHAM

Hartford Memorial Middle School, Grade 8

Evidence is a mighty thing.  
It can save a convict's life  
And it can put an honest man in jail.  
It can solve an ancient crime  
And it can get a poor chap off bail.  
But the real mystery  
Is not whether evidence has stood the test of time –  
But whether time has stood the test of evidence.  
Evidence always knows the answer  
But no one may hear it until it's too late.

## Global cooling

BY CELSEY LUMBRA

Fairfield Center School, Grade 8

If I had a magic wand  
The solution would be easy.  
I would lower the current temperature  
The earth would become a bit breezy.  
There would be no work to do  
Global warming would be solved.  
I would reverse the heating up  
And Global Cooling would evolve.  
No recycling, no hybrid cars  
No saving paper, no conservation.  
Wave my wand is all I would do  
Low temperatures in every nation.  
But life does not work that way  
Never is it that effortless.  
There is always work involved  
In order to reach our success.  
We must recycle and conserve  
Save paper and reduce heating bills.  
Use environmentally friendly cars  
Our Earth we must not kill!

## The evidence

BY BAILEY WALKER

Home Schooled, Grade 8

The parties	Kiss you
Late at night	And the lipstick
When you leave	Stains on
Me at home	Your shirt
Alone.	Can all be counted
The excuses	As evidence
To miss my lips	That you don't
As I go to	Love me anymore.

## SNOWED MACHINE



Brandon Sweet, a senior at Essex High School, says this about his photograph: "I took the picture of the tractor because I am a farmer and I love the look of old equipment. I see these things every day and I wanted to view them from a different perspective. ... I work on a 700-cow dairy farm. We milk 300 of them. The rest are dry cows and heifers. Usually I milk cows. We milk in a parlor, not in tie stalls. In the summer-time I also get to rake hay and drive a dump truck alongside the chopper. I love everything on the farm but I probably like the cows the most."

## Brotherly love

BY TIM MACK | Mill River Union High School, Grade 10

(Excerpt; for complete story go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org))

John Mitchell sat in a large courtroom. The steady hum of anticipating conversation was thick in the air. He worked for a car insurance company called E.R.K. It was a small company that had started 10 years ago. Wanting to grab a large number of costumers very fast, E.R.K. accepted everyone into their program. Unfortunately, they got stuck with most of the people who were rejected from all the other companies. They unwisely overlooked who they were insuring until it was too late. E.R.K. had suffered twelve lawsuits in the last eight years. If they lost this one the company would be forced to end.

John Mitchell had finished law school three years before the case and had had no real action. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas. He came from a wealthy family and was an only child. His family constantly reminded him that it was his duty to continue to uphold the family name. He attended law school to please his parents and found he liked the idea of saving innocent lives from a life in prison. He soon realized that was not the only thing a lawyer does. He had helped behind the scenes in a few big lawsuits between private car owners and the state, but he had never really worked in a big case--let alone be the only one handling the case, which would make or break E.R.K.

E.R.K. decided to take a gamble. They had tried all their best lawyers in the past and they had failed. Perhaps this lawyer fresh out of school would be able to turn the tables.

The case seemed simple. Steve Kent went to a New Year's Eve party with his girlfriend, Stacy Novetch. At the party they drank quite a lot and when they were leaving they offered to give Mike Hiaze and Rebecca Rill a ride home. Steve owned a large SUV that was insured by E.R.K. They took an icy turn at approximately 80 miles per hour.

The SUV tipped and rolled over an embankment. Steve was the only one buckled in. The other three were thrown from the car and killed. Now Stacy Novetch, Mike Hiaze and Rebecca Rill's life insurance companies were suing Steve and E.R.K. ...

A tall thin man walked in front of the judge's desk.

"All rise for the honorable Judge Judy," the man said. He had a thin shaky voice and he looked like he would fall apart at any moment.

Judge Judy walked out into the courtroom wearing her black robes and an expressionless face.

"Be seated," said the thin man. "The lawsuit Steve Kent vs. G.O.O.D. in now in session. ..."

## Is our world getting warmer?

BY DALEY CROWLEY | Rochester High School, Grade 9

The beginning of Vermont's winter was extra warm this year. December's average temperature was 31.7 degrees. In December 1998, the average temperature was 15 degrees. Global warming? Or just uncommonly warm weather?

That is the question most people were thinking when they were comfortably wearing just a sweatshirt and jeans outside in the middle of December -- in Vermont. Rochester, Vermont didn't get its first snowfall until Dec. 8, which beat the previous record.

Global temperatures have risen from an average 54.5 degrees in 1880 to 57.9 degrees in 2000. That is a huge increase. The first six months of 2006 were the warmest in the United States since 1895. The warmest years in the last century have all been since 1998. This means the weather is becoming more extreme; scientists call weather extreme when it is dangerous to people. One example of global warming causing extreme weather is the increase of severe hurricanes. This number has almost doubled in the last 30 years.

Scientists believe that the increased carbon dioxide levels are causing these changes in our climate. This is called the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect has impacted plants and animals all over the world. There are natural causes for greenhouse gases but human causes are 14 times greater. A disturbing fact about global

warming is that the United States and Canada are two of the largest producers of greenhouse gases in the world! There could be thousands of plants and animals that may become extinct because of the increase of heat. Another example of the unfortunate effects of global warming is that the number of Adelie penguins has decreased from 320 pairs to 54 pairs in just fourteen years.

Temperatures broke record highs in five different countries in 2003. This heat wave was the deadliest natural disaster worldwide. Heat kills more Americans than hurricanes, tornados, floods and lightning combined. This is a deadly side effect of global warming.

In a survey conducted at Rochester Middle School the results showed that six out of 10 students think that there is such a thing as global warming. The remaining students say that they don't know enough about global warming to decide whether it is true or not. The problem is that so many people don't know the causes and effects of global warming.

It is a known fact that the Arctic Sea ice is shrinking in size. Pictures from outer space show this dramatic change. Melting ice could cause the ocean to rise more than 20 feet. Global warming is becoming a huge issue for everyone. Everyone should be aware of this dramatic change in our world.

## Evidence of the end

By Paul Detzer | Hartford Memorial Middle School, Grade 8

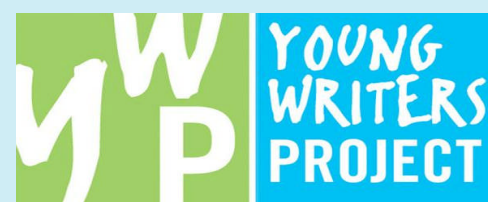
Evidence... all I need is evidence...

The senior detective looked throughout the victim's home. He didn't really care about this case or another case for that matter.

In the beginning of each case he vowed that he would retire. But by the end all he thought was, "One more couldn't hurt." He was addicted... addicted to murder. He just loved being

able to find a killer by hanging around the crime scene for an hour. He loved describing to the judge what happened and seeing the expression on the defendant's face as he knew he was doomed.

But with this case it was different. His skill just wouldn't kick in. It was time to throw in the towel.



YWP is a grassroots nonprofit that helps students write better and gain an audience for their best work. YWP offers writing prompts, special projects and a safe Web site, [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org), where students share their writing, comment on the news and each other's work, participate in group discussions and work on projects. YWP is indebted to the generosity of the Vermont Business Roundtable which is funding its core work for the second year.



## On the Web

at

[youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org)

**Online Book Club.** If you're a high school student who likes books, go to YWP's Web site — [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) — to participate in discussion forums on each of the 15 finalist books for the Green Mountain Book Award. The site also contains book summaries, study guides and more. Find links on top of the front page.

**2008 Weekly Prompts.** Check out the YWP's weekly prompts that are scheduled through the rest of this year. Go to the Web site, click on "Publish" in the top menu bar and follow the "Prompts" link.

**Sign up for YWP Winter Writing Conference.** The Young Writers Project will host a day-long writing workshop with some special guests on **March 8** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Montpelier. To attend, you must sign up ahead of time. Space is limited. For more, go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) and click on the link under "Announcements" in the bottom right column.

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