

A Hi ! Tom !

B Hi Jaya ! So what did you end up doing yesterday evening?

A A friend of mine dragged me to see Al Gore's new climate change film, *An Inconvenient Sequel*.

B I've already seen this movie. What a masterpiece! You should have told me you were going to see it, I'd have loved to see it again.

A But I found this film so boring. It's just a lot of money spent for nothing.

B Are you saying that climate change is nothing? We need this kind of movie to make people react. I loved Al Gore's first documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* back in 2006, and was happy it won an Oscar.

A Yes, the first film was ok. It might have had a small impact by educating and raising awareness but it was pretty dry. It was mainly just a load of graphs.

B And what didn't you like about the sequel?

A *An Inconvenient Sequel* is different from *An Inconvenient Truth*. The first half is spent rehashing what Gore has been up to since the last movie. While George W Bush has taken up painting, Gore has been evangelizing against climate change with ever more determination.

B Why should he be blamed for that? I've read that 2017 was the second hottest year on record according to Nasa data, and was actually the hottest year without the short-term warming influence of an El Niño event.

A I'm not saying Al Gore isn't doing the right thing, but I reckon that if you really want to raise people's awareness with a film, you must show them something other than a former Vice President travelling around the world giving conferences.

B The film-makers shadowed Gore for months because they wanted to show his frustrations as well as his determination to do the right thing. Al Gore just wants to make the world do something about what he sees as an existential crisis.

A That's exactly what I didn't like about the film. It was more a portrait of Gore than a call to arms. It ends with a sort of forced positive thinking: political change is hard, but we can do it, morality demands it. It's true that Gore's passion and anger come out in his speeches, but it begins to feel like a campaign for a non-existent election.

B I think that Al Gore's right to campaign in the way he does. So much needs to be done to improve the situation. As you watch Gore you see a man who understands how difficult it is to change people's way of thinking and how important it is to try. The voice of Donald Trump can be heard early on in the film proclaiming his lack of belief in global warming. And did you hear what Trump's Energy Secretary, Rick Perry, asserted not so long ago? In a Senate committee hearing, Rick Perry said that he didn't believe human carbon pollution had any impact on the Earth's climate. Instead he put most of the blame on naturally occurring events like the warming and the cooling of our oceans.

A Don't you think he might have read this theory in some scientific report? Remember, Perry was governor of Texas for fourteen years before becoming Energy Secretary.

B Research has shown that global surface temperatures are already rising about twenty times faster than the Earth's fastest natural climate change, which was during the transition in and out of the ice ages. And unless we take serious action to cut carbon pollution, the rate will rise to perhaps fifty times faster than the Earth's fastest natural climate change.

A Some people say that global warming isn't a bad phenomenon after all.

B But such rapid climate change is dangerous. You've heard of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that was set up under the auspices of the United Nations? It's stated that we're nearing the point where some thirty per cent of global species are at increasing risk of extinction. If we don't take action to curb global warming, forty per cent or more of global species could soon become extinct.

A Don't be such a pessimist.

B I'm not a pessimist, I'm a realist. The hot temperatures caused by human carbon pollution are a sign of what's to come. If we don't get global warming under control, our own species will be endangered.

Outline

The first speaker was bored by Al Gore's new climate change film, *An Inconvenient Sequel*. The first half is spent rehashing what Gore has been up to since the previous film, evangelizing against climate change with ever more determination. The film is more a portrait of Gore than a call to arms. The second speaker loved Al Gore's first documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and thinks that Al Gore is right to campaign in the way he does, because so much needs to be done to improve the situation. He considers it is realistic, and not pessimistic, to argue that if no action is taken to curb global warming, 40% or more of global species could soon become extinct; even our own species might be endangered.

Questions

1. Are more and more people becoming environmentally friendly?
2. Does eco-tourism seem a good idea?
3. Barack Obama was once described as "the first climate president". What do you consider to be Barack Obama's main achievements as president?
4. Al Gore declared that "The climate crisis is a top priority, and we must have a president who is passionate about [it]." Do you agree?