### 1AC --- Framing --- Big Stick

\*this was a trad round so I just defended the whole resolution and said the value was justice I think\*

#### The standard is Maximizing expected well-being ---

#### 1] Binding – pain and pleasure are the only things with intrinsic value and disvalue – if I put my hand on a hot stove I will pull away – ethics must be binding bc if they arent then its impossible to generate obligations

#### 2] Death is bad – it’s impossible to pursue pleasure if you are dead, that means that we should always try to prevent death to give subjects the ability to pursue pleasure.

#### 3] Actor specificity – Governments have the obligation to maximize the pleasure of their citizens – proven through laws that are designed to stop pain towards other subjects – Drunk driving laws, murder, robbery ect.

4] Moral uncertainty means extinction first  
**Bostrom 12** [Nick Bostrom. Faculty of Philosophy & Oxford Martin School University of Oxford. “Existential Risk Prevention as Global Priority.” Global Policy (2012)]  
These reflections on **moral uncertainty suggest** an alternative, complementary way of looking at existential risk; they also suggest a new way of thinking about the ideal of sustainability. Let me elaborate.¶ **Our present understanding of axiology might** well **be confused. We may not** nowknow — at least not in concrete detail — what outcomes would count as a big win for humanity; we might not even yet **be able to imagine the best ends** of our journey. **If we are** indeedprofoundly **uncertain** about our ultimate aims,then we should recognize that **there is a great** option **value in preserving** — and ideally improving — **our ability to recognize value and** to **steer the future accordingly. Ensuring** that **there will be a future** version of **humanity** with great powers and a propensity to use them wisely **is** plausibly **the best way** available to us **to increase the probability that the future will contain** a lot of **value.** To do this, we must prevent any existential catastrophe.

### 1AC --- Climate ADV

#### The Advantage is Climate ---

#### People get arrested for climate strikes now

* FYI In Massachusetts

Wasser 19 [Miriam Wasser, Before coming to WBUR, she was a staff writer for the Phoenix New Times in Arizona. Her work has also appeared in Boston Magazine, The Atlantic, Narratively, DigBoston and The Big Roundtable, Miriam holds a master’s degree from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, and a BA in government and international relations from Connecticut College, 12-7-2019, “27 Young Climate Activists Arrested On Trespassing Charges At State House Protest” Wbur, Accessed 10-12-2021, <https://www.wbur.org/news/2019/12/07/sunrise-boston-arrest-green-new-deal> ww

After a climate protest that drew at least 300 young people to the State House, 27 people were arrested and charged with trespassing.¶ State police say the arrests were peaceful, and that everyone taken into custody is an adult. (Many of the protest's participants were minors.) Those arrested are expected appear in Boston Municipal Court sometime next week.¶ The day-long protest began at 10:30 a.m. with a rally in Copley Square, and then moved to the State House. For more than six hours, hundreds of young people occupied the hallway outside of Gov. Charlie Baker's office. They alternated between singing and dancing, and telling stories about what inspires them to be a climate activist.¶ "I'm here because nothing has been done for way too long now, and the more we put pressure on our politicians and those in power, the more stuff will start to get done," said 21-year-old Jamie Gareh.¶ At 5 p.m., police warned the protesters that if they didn't leave the building, they'd be arrested. Some sitting in front of the governor's office linked arms, and said the threat of climate change was far worse than the threat of arrest.¶ "We're staying. We're not going to leave until [Gov.] Baker gets here," 18-year-old Amalia Hochman, of Somerville, said. "We want him to pass the Mass Power Forward agenda and support a Massachusetts Green New Deal."¶ Others at the rally said they wanted the state to pass a carbon tax, place more emphasis on environmental justice issues and declare a "climate emergency." Some also called on Baker to stop the Weymouth Natural Gas Compressor Station and a proposed electrical substation in East Boston.¶ The activists were with the Boston chapter of the Sunrise Movement, the national grassroots organization of young people pushing for bold climate action and a Green New Deal.

#### Climate activists are able to make radical demands for climate policy --- but they are subject to huge amounts of violence --- the plan is key to sustaining current momentum

Dunne 9-24 [Daisy Dunne, Daisy holds a BSc in biology from the University of Bristol and a science journalism MA from City, University of London, 9-24-2021, “Climate strikes: Why are young people across the world taking to the streets?”, The Independent, Accessed 10-15-2021, <https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/global-climate-strikes-2021-why-b1926288.html> ww

Young people are taking to the streets in more than 1,400 places across the world on Friday to demand tougher action on the climate crisis.¶ A protest first started by the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg in 2018 has swelled into an international phenomenon. Today, there are more than 700 school strikes planned in Europe, nearly 200 in the US and 88 in sub-Saharan Africa.¶ The crowds come just weeks before Cop26 – the most important UN climate summit in years – is due to take place in Glasgow. A recent UN assessment found that countries are still far behind the level of action needed to meet global climate goals.¶ As young people head out to protest, The Independent examines their key demands – as well as how they square with the latest science and pledges put forward by world leaders.¶ End to fossil fuels¶ A key demand of the Fridays for Future movement is for rich countries to “drastically” divest from fossil fuels and to end their “extraction, burning, and use”.¶ In 2019, about 84 per cent of global primary energy came from the fossil fuels coal, oil and gas. And a recent landmark report from the UN’s climate authority made it clear that burning fossil fuels is already impacting weather and climate extremes in every region of the globe.¶ The UK, the main host of Cop26, is less ambitious in its approach. Boris Johnson and his government is instead calling for countries to “consign coal power to history” – rather than all types of fossil fuels.¶ While coal is the dirtiest of the fossil fuels, the latest scientific evidence shows that action on oil and gas will also be needed to limit the climate crisis.¶ Watch live as Greta Thunberg joins the Fridays for Future climate strike in Berlin¶ A study published in the journal Nature this month found that 90 per cent of coal and 60 per cent of oil and gas must be left in the ground if the world is to have even a 50 per cent chance of keeping the global temperature rise to 1.5C – the international aspiration set by the Paris Agreement.¶ And a major report published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in May said there can be no further fossil fuel expansion if the world is to meet its climate goals.¶ The Independent’s Stop Fuelling the Climate Crisis campaign is also calling for action on all fossil fuels ahead of Cop26.¶ Climate cash for developing nations¶ Another key demand of youth strikers is for leaders to recognise the inequalities embedded in the climate crisis.¶ Since the start of the fossil fuel era, developing countries have caused the fewest emissions and yet tend to face the largest climate impacts, Ugandan activist Vanessa Nakate explained on Monday.¶ “Historically, we’ve seen that the entire continent of Africa is responsible for only 3 per cent of global emissions. And yet Africans are already suffering some of the most brutal impacts fuelled by the climate crisis,” Ms Nakate said.¶ “We’ve seen many Africans lose their lives and countless more have lost their homes and their businesses… This is why we will be striking on 24 September – to demand climate justice.”¶ Leading young activists have called for developed countries to meet promises to provide $100bn a year to help developing nations both tackle and adapt to rising emissions. The pledge was first made in 2009 and countries were due to come up with the cash by 2020.¶ Speaking on Monday, Ms Thunberg said that wealthy nations’ failure to deliver on promised funding “just doesn’t make sense”.¶ “How can countries like mine expect other countries to take climate action if we, who are very much more historically responsible per capita than other countries, ignore it?”¶ Boris Johnson has also called for leaders to meet the $100bn pledge – describing it as his main goal on his visit to the UN this week. However, his efforts to raise funds ahead of Cop26 could be hampered by the UK’s decision to slash its own spending on foreign aid, campaigners warn.¶ Green recovery from Covid-19¶ Climate strikers are also calling for a “global, green, and just recovery” from the Covid-19 pandemic.¶ Since the pandemic began in 2020, experts have urged leaders to “build back greener” as Covid restrictions ease – investing more in renewables and green jobs, and less in the fossil fuel industry.¶ However, evidence suggests this advice has largely been ignored. An analysis by the UN published in March found less than a fifth of the money spent by major economies on long-term Covid recovery measures can be considered “green”.¶ And in April, the IEA warned that global emissions from energy use are set to soar by 1.5 billion tonnes in 2021 – the highest annual increase since 2010 – as demand for fossil fuels return to pre-pandemic levels.¶ Ending violence against environmental defenders¶ Another demand of climate strikers is for the world to take urgent action to tackle violence against environmental defenders.¶ Data released this month showed that a record 227 people were murdered for defending their land and environment in 2020.¶ In August, young Kenyan environmentalist and climate activist Elizabeth Wathuti told The Independent that the UK and the UN must do more to act on murders of activists.¶ “Nobody deserves to be murdered for standing up for nature,” she said. “If anything, we need to be protected.”¶ The UK has so far not prioritised ending violence against environmental defenders in its international climate efforts.¶ Tackling climate and nature crises as one¶ Many young climate activists, including Ms Thunberg, are calling on leaders to recognise the interconnections between the climate and nature crises.¶ Earth’s biodiversity is in rapid decline – and more species are at risk of extinction today than at any other time in human history.¶ Some of the world’s leading climate and nature scientists have also issued calls for leaders to tackle the climate and nature crises together. In a major report released in June, they warned that solutions to tackle the climate crisis might worsen nature loss unless efforts are made to tackle both problems in unison.

#### Constant pressure and coordinated strikes generate change – the plan sustains momentum for political change

Taylor 9-24 [Matthew Taylor, environmental correspondent for the guardian, 9-24-2021, “Global climate strike: thousands join coordinated action across world” The Guardian, accessed 10-11-2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/sep/24/people-in-99-countries-take-part-in-global-climate-strike> ww

Hundreds of thousands of people in 99 countries have taken part in a coordinated global climate strike demanding urgent action to tackle the ecological crisis.¶ The strike on Friday, the first worldwide climate action since the coronavirus pandemic hit, is taking place weeks before the Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow, UK.¶ In Germany, two days before the country’s general election, Greta Thunberg told a crowd of more than 100,000 people that “no political party” was doing enough.¶ The Swedish activist, whose solo strike in 2018 inspired the global Fridays for Future movement, told cheering supporters they needed to keep up the pressure on Germany’s political leaders past election day.¶ “Yes, we must vote, you must vote, but remember that voting only will not be enough. We must keep going into the streets,” she said.¶ Organisers of the global event said there were protests in more than 1,800 towns and cities around the world with large events in Europe, Africa and North and South America.¶ In Mexico protesters assembled in front of the National Palace in Mexico City to demand that the state oil company Pemex present a plan to decarbonise, while in Bangladesh activists demanded the scrapping of planned new coal and gas power stations.¶ In South Africa demonstrations took place in 12 cities as part of a three-day strike to demand the government oversees a just transition from fossil fuels. In London protesters gathered outside parliament to hear speakers call on the UK government to do more to meet its climate goals. Large demonstrations were also expected in Canada, Brazil and Argentina.¶ Earlier this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the world’s carbon emissions must fall by half by 2030 to keep global heating below 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, the limit countries agreed to strive for in 2015 in Paris.¶ But the UN reported on 17 September that current pledges from countries would lead to a 16% rise in the next decade.¶ There have been some positive moves in recent days, with China saying it will end its financing for highly polluting coal-fired power stations abroad – though not at home – and the US doubling its climate finance to vulnerable nations. This funding helps rich countries move towards delivery of the $100bn (£73bn) a year promised a decade ago, which is seen as critical for the success of Cop26.

#### The judge has an ethical obligation to vote affirmative --- Extinction by 2050 means its try or die for the aff

Figueres 19 [Christiana Figueres, Figueres was executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 9-023-2019, “For Our Future, the Oil and Gas Industry Must Go Green” The New York Times, Accessed 10-15-2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/23/opinion/climate-change-fossil-fuels.html> ww

As young climate activists, frightened for their futures, meet with world leaders at the United Nations Climate Action Summit on Monday, oil and gas industry executives are conferring to grapple with the stark, existential choice their industry faces. As they attended a cocktail reception at the Gramercy Park Hotel Sunday, several dozen climate protesters gathered outside.¶ In some countries, like Britain and the United States, natural gas together with renewables is displacing coal. But the oil and gas industry overall faces a tough road ahead.¶ The global economy must reach net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. This is not a dream or an ideology. It is an imperative. The consequences of not reaching that goal are so threatening to life on this planet that we cannot even contemplate the possibility of failure.¶ And yet oil and gas companies plan to spend $50 billion to extract new reserves of fossil fuels. That expenditure ignores the inevitable reality of the carbon-constrained future already underway.¶ The shelf life of these companies in their current form may be more than five years — but is certainly no more than 30. Roughly one third of global oil demand is estimated to come from cars, which we need to electrify within the next 10 to 15 years. And natural gas, currently playing a major role in power generation, faces increasing competition from renewables, which have a predictable marginal cost: zero. They also have zero emissions and rising public demand for them, and will soon be buttressed by their own competitive battery storage capacity.¶ Climate Fwd A new administration, an ongoing climate emergency — and a ton of news. Our newsletter will help you stay on top of it. Get it sent to your inbox.¶ Markets have started their flight not only from coal, but also from oil and gas. Only one oil company, Exxon Mobil, is among the ten most valuable global companies by market capitalization. FTSE Russell recently reclassified oil and gas companies on the London Stock Exchange as “nonrenewable.” This matters because investors use the FTSE classifications to determine whether to divest from certain polluter stocks. The giant Norwegian sovereign wealth fund recently agreed to dump an estimated $5.7 billion in oil and gas investments. The European Investment Bank — the world’s largest multilateral lender and the biggest provider of climate finance — has proposed ending the financing of fossil fuel infrastructure, including for gas, after 2020. And a $20 billion Danish pension fund is removing the top 10 major oil companies from its portfolio because their long-term business models are incompatible with the Paris climate agreement.¶ Another threat to the oil and gas industry is the negative stigma that has made it unattractive as a career choice for many young people. Any industry depends on fresh thinking and new capacities, and oil and gas may find it increasingly difficult to attract or retain that vital asset. Unless the industry can reinvent itself quickly it may follow the path of electric utilities. They failed to appreciate the depth and speed of the energy transition; now they find themselves struggling.¶ The global climate strikes and the Climate Action Summit make this an auspicious moment for the oil and gas industry’s Climate Initiative to lead the transition of their industry. If it is to continue beyond 2050, it can no longer be an emitter of greenhouse gases or sell products that are.¶ In the short term, oil and gas companies must prove their commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050. To do so, they should eliminate methane emissions and withdraw from direct or indirect lobbying efforts against climate change regulation.¶ The industry must also stop building new capacity and instead finance substantial reforestation around the world. Planting billions of trees is one way to tackle the climate crisis. The world’s forestland can expand by nearly a third — an area roughly the size of the United States — without affecting cities or agriculture.¶ At the same time, leadership by governments is critical. As the industry prepares itself for the low-carbon world by investing in clean innovation and retraining workforces, governments must set the long-term path. Some governments already have concrete plans, but many more must do likewise. Those plans will need to ensure that the price of fossil fuels reflects their true cost for the planet and society, which means ending fossil fuel subsidies and taxing pollution. New training and educational programs are also essential for workers as the industry transitions to a cleaner future.¶ We need to unite behind the science that tells us the world is warming dangerously from the burning of fossil fuels and put the carbon back where it belongs: in biomass and in the soil.

#### Extinction

Kareiva 18 [Peter,Ph.D. in ecology and applied mathematics from Cornell University, director of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA, Pritzker Distinguished Professor in Environment & Sustainability at UCLA, et al., September 2018, “Existential risk due to ecosystem collapse: Nature strikes back,” Futures, Vol. 102, p. 39-50

In summary, six of the nine proposed planetary boundaries (phosphorous, nitrogen, biodiversity, land use, atmospheric aerosol loading, and chemical pollution) are unlikely to be associated with existential risks. They all correspond to a degraded environment, but in our assessment do not represent existential risks. However, the three remaining boundaries (climate change, global freshwater cycle, and ocean acidification) do pose existential risks. This is because of intrinsic positive feedback loops, substantial lag times between system change and experiencing the consequences of that change, and the fact these different boundaries interact with one another in ways that yield surprises. In addition, climate, freshwater, and ocean acidification are all directly connected to the provision of food and water, and shortages of food and water can create conflict and social unrest. Climate change has a long history of disrupting civilizations and sometimes precipitating the collapse of cultures or mass emigrations (McMichael, 2017). For example, the 12th century drought in the North American Southwest is held responsible for the collapse of the Anasazi pueblo culture. More recently, the infamous potato famine of 1846–1849 and the large migration of Irish to the U.S. can be traced to a combination of factors, one of which was climate. Specifically, 1846 was an unusually warm and moist year in Ireland, providing the climatic conditions favorable to the fungus that caused the potato blight. As is so often the case, poor government had a role as well—as the British government forbade the import of grains from outside Britain (imports that could have helped to redress the ravaged potato yields). Climate change intersects with freshwater resources because it is expected to exacerbate drought and water scarcity, as well as flooding. Climate change can even impair water quality because it is associated with heavy rains that overwhelm sewage treatment facilities, or because it results in higher concentrations of pollutants in groundwater as a result of enhanced evaporation and reduced groundwater recharge. Ample clean water is not a luxury—it is essential for human survival. Consequently, cities, regions and nations that lack clean freshwater are vulnerable to social disruption and disease. Finally, ocean acidification is linked to climate change because it is driven by CO2 emissions just as global warming is. With close to 20% of the world’s protein coming from oceans (FAO, 2016), the potential for severe impacts due to acidification is obvious. Less obvious, but perhaps more insidious, is the interaction between climate change and the loss of oyster and coral reefs due to acidification. Acidification is known to interfere with oyster reef building and coral reefs. Climate change also increases storm frequency and severity. Coral reefs and oyster reefs provide protection from storm surge because they reduce wave energy (Spalding et al., 2014). If these reefs are lost due to acidification at the same time as storms become more severe and sea level rises, coastal communities will be exposed to unprecedented storm surge—and may be ravaged by recurrent storms. A key feature of the risk associated with climate change is that mean annual temperature and mean annual rainfall are not the variables of interest. Rather it is extreme episodic events that place nations and entire regions of the world at risk. These extreme events are by definition “rare” (once every hundred years), and changes in their likelihood are challenging to detect because of their rarity, but are exactly the manifestations of climate change that we must get better at anticipating (Diffenbaugh et al., 2017). Society will have a hard time responding to shorter intervals between rare extreme events because in the lifespan of an individual human, a person might experience as few as two or three extreme events. How likely is it that you would notice a change in the interval between events that are separated by decades, especially given that the interval is not regular but varies stochastically? A concrete example of this dilemma can be found in the past and expected future changes in storm-related flooding of New York City. The highly disruptive flooding of New York City associated with Hurricane Sandy represented a flood height that occurred once every 500 years in the 18th century, and that occurs now once every 25 years, but is expected to occur once every 5 years by 2050 (Garner et al., 2017). This change in frequency of extreme floods has profound implications for the measures New York City should take to protect its infrastructure and its population, yet because of the stochastic nature of such events, this shift in flood frequency is an elevated risk that will go unnoticed by most people. 4. The combination of positive feedback loops and societal inertia is fertile ground for global environmental catastrophes. Humans are remarkably ingenious, and have adapted to crises throughout their history. Our doom has been repeatedly predicted, only to be averted by innovation (Ridley, 2011). However, the many stories of human ingenuity successfully addressing existential risks such as global famine or extreme air pollution represent environmental challenges that are largely linear, have immediate consequences, and operate without positive feedbacks. For example, the fact that food is in short supply does not increase the rate at which humans consume food—thereby increasing the shortage. Similarly, massive air pollution episodes such as the London fog of 1952 that killed 12,000 people did not make future air pollution events more likely. In fact it was just the opposite—the London fog sent such a clear message that Britain quickly enacted pollution control measures (Stradling, 2016). Food shortages, air pollution, water pollution, etc. send immediate signals to society of harm, which then trigger a negative feedback of society seeking to reduce the harm. In contrast, today’s great environmental crisis of climate change may cause some harm but there are generally long time delays between rising CO2 concentrations and damage to humans. The consequence of these delays are an absence of urgency; thus although 70% of Americans believe global warming is happening, only 40% think it will harm them (http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us-2016/). Secondly, unlike past environmental challenges, the Earth’s climate system is rife with positive feedback loops. In particular, as CO2 increases and the climate warms, that very warming can cause more CO2 release which further increases global warming, and then more CO2, and so on. Table 2 summarizes the best documented positive feedback loops for the Earth’s climate system. These feedbacks can be neatly categorized into carbon cycle, biogeochemical, biogeophysical, cloud, ice-albedo, and water vapor feedbacks. As important as it is to understand these feedbacks individually, it is even more essential to study the interactive nature of these feedbacks. Modeling studies show that when interactions among feedback loops are included, uncertainty increases dramatically and there is a heightened potential for perturbations to be magnified (e.g., Cox, Betts, Jones, Spall, & Totterdell, 2000; Hajima, Tachiiri, Ito, & Kawamiya, 2014; Knutti & Rugenstein, 2015; Rosenfeld, Sherwood, Wood, & Donner, 2014). This produces a wide range of future scenarios. Positive feedbacks in the carbon cycle involves the enhancement of future carbon contributions to the atmosphere due to some initial increase in atmospheric CO2. This happens because as CO2 accumulates, it reduces the efficiency in which oceans and terrestrial ecosystems sequester carbon, which in return feeds back to exacerbate climate change (Friedlingstein et al., 2001). Warming can also increase the rate at which organic matter decays and carbon is released into the atmosphere, thereby causing more warming (Melillo et al., 2017). Increases in food shortages and lack of water is also of major concern when biogeophysical feedback mechanisms perpetuate drought conditions. The underlying mechanism here is that losses in vegetation increases the surface albedo, which suppresses rainfall, and thus enhances future vegetation loss and more suppression of rainfall—thereby initiating or prolonging a drought (Chamey, Stone, & Quirk, 1975). To top it off, overgrazing depletes the soil, leading to augmented vegetation loss (Anderies, Janssen, & Walker, 2002). Climate change often also increases the risk of forest fires, as a result of higher temperatures and persistent drought conditions. The expectation is that forest fires will become more frequent and severe with climate warming and drought (Scholze, Knorr, Arnell, & Prentice, 2006), a trend for which we have already seen evidence (Allen et al., 2010). Tragically, the increased severity and risk of Southern California wildfires recently predicted by climate scientists (Jin et al., 2015), was realized in December 2017, with the largest fire in the history of California (the “Thomas fire” that burned 282,000 acres, https://www.vox.com/2017/12/27/16822180/thomas-fire-california-largest-wildfire). This catastrophic fire embodies the sorts of positive feedbacks and interacting factors that could catch humanity off-guard and produce a true apocalyptic event. Record-breaking rains produced an extraordinary flush of new vegetation, that then dried out as record heat waves and dry conditions took hold, coupled with stronger than normal winds, and ignition. Of course the record-fire released CO2 into the atmosphere, thereby contributing to future warming. Out of all types of feedbacks, water vapor and the ice-albedo feedbacks are the most clearly understood mechanisms. Losses in reflective snow and ice cover drive up surface temperatures, leading to even more melting of snow and ice cover—this is known as the ice-albedo feedback (Curry, Schramm, & Ebert, 1995). As snow and ice continue to melt at a more rapid pace, millions of people may be displaced by flooding risks as a consequence of sea level rise near coastal communities (Biermann & Boas, 2010; Myers, 2002; Nicholls et al., 2011). The water vapor feedback operates when warmer atmospheric conditions strengthen the saturation vapor pressure, which creates a warming effect given water vapor’s strong greenhouse gas properties (Manabe & Wetherald, 1967). Global warming tends to increase cloud formation because warmer temperatures lead to more evaporation of water into the atmosphere, and warmer temperature also allows the atmosphere to hold more water. The key question is whether this increase in clouds associated with global warming will result in a positive feedback loop (more warming) or a negative feedback loop (less warming). For decades, scientists have sought to answer this question and understand the net role clouds play in future climate projections (Schneider et al., 2017). Clouds are complex because they both have a cooling (reflecting incoming solar radiation) and warming (absorbing incoming solar radiation) effect (Lashof, DeAngelo, Saleska, & Harte, 1997). The type of cloud, altitude, and optical properties combine to determine how these countervailing effects balance out. Although still under debate, it appears that in most circumstances the cloud feedback is likely positive (Boucher et al., 2013). For example, models and observations show that increasing greenhouse gas concentrations reduces the low-level cloud fraction in the Northeast Pacific at decadal time scales. This then has a positive feedback effect and enhances climate warming since less solar radiation is reflected by the atmosphere (Clement, Burgman, & Norris, 2009). The key lesson from the long list of potentially positive feedbacks and their interactions is that runaway climate change, and runaway perturbations have to be taken as a serious possibility. Table 2 is just a snapshot of the type of feedbacks that have been identified (see Supplementary material for a more thorough explanation of positive feedback loops). However, this list is not exhaustive and the possibility of undiscovered positive feedbacks portends even greater existential risks. The many environmental crises humankind has previously averted (famine, ozone depletion, London fog, water pollution, etc.) were averted because of political will based on solid scientific understanding. We cannot count on complete scientific understanding when it comes to positive feedback loops and climate change.

#### How old will you be in 2050? Climate strikes can generate real momentum to create change – the plan is the first step to sustaining global momentum and creating enough pressure for sustained political efforts

Sengupta 19 [Somini Sengupta, a George Polk Award-winning journalist, covers the United Nations for The New York Times, for which she was previously the bureau chief in Dakar and New Delhi, 9-21-2019, “Protesting Climate Change, Young People Take to Streets in a Global Strike” The New York Times, Accessed 10-11-2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/20/climate/global-climate-strike.html> ww

Anxious about their future on a hotter planet and angry at world leaders for failing to arrest the crisis, masses of young people poured into the streets on every continent on Friday for a day of global climate protests. Organizers estimated the turnout to be around four million in thousands of cities and towns worldwide.¶ It was the first time that children and young people had demonstrated to demand climate action in so many places and in such numbers around the world.¶ They turned out in force in Berlin, where the police estimated 100,000 participants, with similar numbers in Melbourne and London. In New York City, the mayor’s office estimated that 60,000 people marched through the narrow streets of Lower Manhattan, while organizers put the total at 250,000. By the dozens in some places, and by the tens of thousands in others, young people demonstrated in cities like Manila, Kampala and Rio de Janeiro. A group of scientists rallied in Antarctica.¶ “You had a future, and so should we,” demonstrators chanted as they marched through New York City.¶ Then, “We vote next.”¶ Banners in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, ranged from serious to humorous. One read, “Climate Emergency Now.” Another said, “This planet is getting hotter than my imaginary boyfriend.” In Mumbai, children in oversize raincoats marched in the rain. A sign in Berlin declared, “Stop the Global Pyromania.”¶ “Right now we are the ones who are making a difference. If no one else will take action, then we will,” Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist whose one-person strikes in Stockholm helped ignite a global movement, told demonstrators in New York City. “We demand a safe future. Is that really too much to ask?”¶ Whether this global action solves the problem that the protesters have identified — arresting greenhouse gas emissions to stave off a climate catastrophe — now depends on how effectively climate advocates can turn Friday’s momentum into sustained political pressure on governments and companies that produce those emissions.¶ Nowhere is that more true than in the United States, which has produced more emissions than any country since the start of the industrial age, and which is now rolling back a suite of environmental regulations under President Donald Trump. Organizers said there were demonstrations in all 50 United States.¶ “In no way is today the end goal but is only a catalyst for future mobilization,” said Azalea Danes, 16, a high school student in New York City. “We will continue to strike.”¶ Megan Mullin, a political scientist at Duke University, said that would be crucial.¶ “The challenge is translating something that is a global movement into a kind of concentrated political pressure that can influence government decisions,” she said. “It needs to be translated to influencing decision makers who aren’t already convinced.”¶ The protests were also notable for where they didn’t take place: China, which is currently the biggest greenhouse gas emitter of all.¶ While it was impossible to determine exactly how many people protested worldwide, a preliminary analysis by The Times found several cities had turnouts in the range of 100,000 and many more in the tens of thousands. Rarely, if ever, has the modern world witnessed a youth movement so large and wide, spanning across societies rich and poor, tied together by a common if inchoate sense of rage.¶ “They are mobilized around an issue of consistent concern across countries and across geographic areas,” said Dana Fisher, a sociologist at the University of Maryland who studies social movements. “It spans the developing-developed country divide. There aren’t that many issues that would unify in such a manner. And we all know the burden of climate change will fall on these kids’ shoulders when they are adults. They are acutely aware as well.”¶ The day began in the Asia-Pacific region.¶ More than 100,000 protested in Melbourne, in what organizers said was the largest climate action in Australia’s history. The rally shut down key public transport corridors for hours. In Sydney, thousands gathered in the Domain, a public park east of the Central Business District — grandparents escorting their children holding homemade signs, groups of teenagers in school uniforms, parents handing out boxed raisins to their young children.¶ “Adults are, like, ‘Respect your elders.’ And we’re, like, ‘Respect our futures,’” said Jemima Grimmer, 13, in Sydney. “You know, it’s a two-way street, respect, and I’m angry that I have to be here.”¶ In Quezon City, in the Philippines, protesters, including one dressed as Pikachu, the Pokémon character, held a sign that read: “Dead Planet Soon. Act Now!”¶ Thousands turned out in Warsaw, the capital of coal-reliant Poland. And roughly 100,000 demonstrators gathered around the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, according to the police. “Make the World Greta Again,” read one placard.¶ Across Britain, there were protests from Brighton to Edinburgh. The turnout in London was large, with organizers estimating more than 100,000 participants as well.¶ Theo Parkinson-Pride, 12, was passing by the Palace of Westminster with his mother Catherine, 45, who said she had emailed her son’s school to tell them he would be missing classes on Friday. “I said to my mum, I feel this is more important than school today because soon there may be no school to go to,” Theo said.¶ Many brought handmade signs. “Think or Swim,” one read.¶ By late morning, protesters across the Eastern Seaboard were streaming out of schools and office buildings, pooling around steps of local city halls. The police in Baltimore blocked roads as students arrived on foot, scooter and skateboard. In St. Petersburg, Fla., about 200 protesters convened at City Hall, including one dressed as a polar bear with a sign that said “Climate Action Now.”¶ In Des Moines, Iowa, around 500 protesters with signs gathered outside the State Capitol, sweat rolling down their faces as temperatures hovered around 83 degrees Fahrenheit, or about 28 Celsius.¶ A day after Tropical Storm Imelda swamped parts of southeast Texas, crowds in Houston chanted, “Our streets flood, so we flood the streets.”¶ Tens of thousands of protesters marched through the streets of San Francisco, chanting, “Green New Deal, make it real,” and carrying signs that read “The sea is rising, so must we.”¶ Many websites went dark in solidarity with the protests or posted statements of support.¶ At the Seattle headquarters of Amazon, hundreds of employees walked out, continuing pressure on company leaders to do more about climate change. Those workers won concessions this week, as Amazon vowed to be carbon neutral by 2040 and to order 100,000 electric delivery trucks.¶ But the workers demanded more action on Friday. They asked Amazon to stop providing cloud-computing support to fossil fuel companies and to stop giving donations to politicians, and groups, who have resisted efforts to take more action to halt climate change, holding signs that read “Amazon: Zero $$ for Political Climate Denial.”¶ Certainly, this is not the first time in modern history that young people have galvanized around a cause. Young people led social movements against the Vietnam War and for civil rights in the United States. So, too, against apartheid and in the global antinuclear movement.¶ The youth climate movement is different, say those who study social protests.¶ At a time of fraying trust in authority figures, children — who by definition have no authority over anything — are increasingly driving the debate. Using the internet, young people are organizing across continents like no generation before them. And though their outsize demands for an end to fossil fuels mirror those of older environmentalists, their movement has captured the public imagination far more effectively.¶ “What’s unique about this is that young people are able to see their future is at risk today,” said Kumi Naidoo, the head of Amnesty International and a longtime campaigner for environmental issues. “I certainly hope this is a turning point.”¶ An early test of the student protests will come on Monday when world leaders assemble at United Nations headquarters to demonstrate what they are willing to do to avert a crisis. Their speeches are unlikely to assuage the youth strikers, but whether the youth protests will peter out or become more confrontational in the coming weeks and months remains to be seen.¶ “They’re going to call ‘BS,’” Ms. Fisher, the sociologist, said of the protesters. “It’s great for people at the United Nations summit to posture and say they care about this issue, but that’s not enough to stop the climate crisis. These kids are sophisticated enough to recognize that.”

#### Climate strikes generate momentum for climate change policy – They have changed the story surrounding climate change and allowed for a new narrative which allows for an increase in awareness and increase mobilization

Han and Ahn 20 [Heejin Han, Divisiuon of Global and interdisciplinary studies, Pukyong national university, Sang Wuk Ahn, Division of international and area studies Pukyong uni, 5-18-2020, “Youth Mobilization to Stop Global Climate Change: Narratives and Impact” Sustainability, Accessed 10-11-2021, <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjfpqG7zMLzAhXwnGoFHbYqDWkQFnoECCcQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mdpi.com%2F2071-1050%2F12%2F10%2F4127%2Fpdf&usg=AOvVaw1gnvg0fcyGBeF4bPjSyA2j> ww

6. Conclusions¶ This study discussed the emergence of young people as agents of change leading a global climate movement, examining their achievements and limitations. The 2018–2019 youth movement around climate change was unprecedented in terms of its scale, although young people have led various forms of social movements throughout history (e.g., teenagers mobilizing against gun violence in the United States and students fighting for democratic representation in Hong Kong) [67]. ¶ Galvanized by Greta Thunberg’s Friday school strikes, the climate movement soon reached a global scale among young people, enlisting millions around the world. This study examined the significance of this youth climate activism by focusing on the narratives generated and shared by the movement’s participants. This research identified the settings, characters, plot, and moral that constituted the overarching narrative. The narrative served as a tool that united the participants and as a weapon for the weak in challenging much more powerful antagonists. Young people used this narrative to assign blame to corporate entities and states that do not support more aggressive forms of climate change policies.¶ This youth movement succeeded in raising the profile of climate change as a pressing global issue of the highest priority, enlisting broad societal endorsement and prompting incremental policy changes on the parts of some states. This youth activism also reminded the world and international organizations such as the U.N. of the need to incorporate the voices of youth into global climate governance. Moreover, youth climate mobilization created a global attitude shift, elevating the importance of climate change in the global agenda and calling for urgent social transformation [67]. However, the youth climate movement and its participants lacked the power to bring about immediate policy changes. While they portrayed themselves as heroes in their narrative, they were limited in translating their moral authority and legitimacy into power and in offering powerful policy alternatives to the status quo. Despite this mixed impact, the youth climate movement demonstrated that young people support their peers and other social groups to promote common goals and values and to bring about the social change they desire [68,106]. This youth mobilization demonstrated the possibilities for leadership and agency among young people at a time when powerful and resourceful governments have backed away from climate change commitments [68]. This story of activism contrasts sharply with some existing descriptions of young people, which depict them as fragile and helpless victims of climate-induced disaster and physical and psychological distress. Some studies have also portrayed them as a passive and self-centric political group that is not interested in forming networks with others or in resolving environmental issues such as climate change. These youth-led climate movements defied these stereotypes.¶ This new image of young people as agents of change and as active architects of future climate policymaking suggests the urgency of recognizing them as competent citizens and meaningfully engaging them in deliberative processes [68,107–109]. Currently, young people and youth organizations are formally represented by YOUNGO as an official constituency of the UNFCCC. However, a recent study shows how youth participants from YOUNGO are hindered by the exercise of power by other stakeholders, which prevents the former from articulating their preferred claims [100]. Moreover, such an outlet is limited to authorized youth organizations and their members. Given the rising global youth activism and its impact as demonstrated in this study, it is necessary to create multiple formal and informal venues for dialogues with young people so that their interests and ideas are incorporated into global climate governance. This research can serve as an excellent reference material for gaining a deeper understanding of youth narratives regarding climate change as a step toward forging a meaningful partnership with them to tackle this global challenge. For governments and corporate entities whom the youth narratives identified as villains, this study provides insights into how to engage young people by understanding their narratives and perspectives. Such an understanding would enhance climate communication among various actors. For those who intend to resolve the gaps and conflicts between youth and other parties in climate politics, this study can help them design a unifying narrative [110] by understanding the stories told by young people. This study also implies that it is crucial to cultivate young people’s climate-related knowledge and their resilience and capacity to address climate change in various mitigation and adaptation arenas: this will help lead to a sustainable future and more equitable climate governance [22].¶ While aiming to provide a broad understanding of youth climate movements, this study has several limitations, and therefore, future studies are required. First, this study’s evaluation of the 2018–2019 youth climate mobilization remains tentative, mainly drawing from descriptive evidence. It would be feasible to study the movements’ outcomes more systematically as their goals are translated into actual policies at state and international levels and as cultural norms associated with climate change diffuse. Drawing from the social movement and narrative studies, one can build hypotheses and test them to measure the effectiveness of movement narratives in generating changes in biographical, political, and cultural domains. ¶ Second, while this study treated the global youth climate movement as a single movement for the sake of addressing the significance of youth activism and mobilization as a whole, youth climate movements have exhibited diverse forms and strategies in reality. Likewise, youth narratives have taken multiple forms specific to different cultures around the world [68]. Future studies could examine the various local sub-narratives that have underpinned such global-scale climate movements and metanarratives. A cross-country comparison of youth climate movements could help to clarify the interactions between the overarching meta-narratives underlying the global youth climate movements and more nuanced, country-specific narratives. This will shed light on diverse motivating factors behind such mobilization, reflecting country-specific concerns raised by youth groups and different solutions. Research on different types of youth dissent [111] and the various strategies and tactics employed by youths in different contexts could provide a deeper understanding of youth engagement in climate governance. One can also compare and contrast youth movements across various arenas to see if movement themes and issue types affect various dimensions of youth mobilization such as narratives and the strategies and tactics adopted.¶ Moreover, this study examined the stories as narrated by youth activists, so future research could explore the counter-narratives generated in response to the youth narratives to see how the interplay between competing narratives shape global climate politics and policymaking. Finally, this study adopted a qualitative method in examining youth narratives. Future studies could conduct a quantitative analysis by using, for instance, corpus analysis [112–114], to validate and enrich the findings of this research.