

The Climate Crisis: Telling the Story of the Climate Crisis (Writing an Explainer)

Elements of a story:

Who? (Stakeholders/Actors)

What? (What's at stake)

When, where? (Setting)

Why? (Why is temperature increasing)

Example explainer for a podcast (359 words):

By the [year 2080](#), perhaps when you are 60 or 70, daily news could very well look like [intense storms flooding and bringing down houses](#), [wildfires causing evacuations](#) every month, and people constantly fearing for [their lives and their loved ones' lives](#).

That's the world in which action continues to be too slow.

"What are we acting against?", you might ask. Since the industrialization of some countries back in the 1900s, global temperatures have constantly been rising due to [the emission of fossil fuels](#) by [large corporations and governments](#). And it's not every business or government. In fact, the 2017 Carbon Majors Report notes that more than 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions between 1988 and 2017 [come from just 100 major corporations](#).

[The usage of fossil fuels emits huge amounts of CO2. While this is typically a natural gas that forms a part of the earth's ecosystem, an excessive production of it can cause more heat to be trapped in the atmosphere, ultimately raising the temperature of the Earth.](#)

Now, what does that look like? Well, currently, the earth's temperatures have increased by 1.1 degrees celsius. That might not feel like a lot, but your body's average temperature is 37 degrees celsius and a one degree increase from that means that you have fever, which signifies that something is wrong. With a 1.1 degree increase, we see today that there is an increase in extreme weather and climate events, [demonstrating the deterioration of our earth's ecosystems](#). Just as our body might suffer from a fever, [the Earth today and many of its inhabitants and animals](#) are suffering currently from climate change.

As of now, these effects seem to [disproportionately affect those who live in vulnerable areas](#). The [islanders of the Marshall islands](#) and the [civilians of Somalia and Chad](#) are just a few examples of some of those who face grim prospects.

But by the time the earth's temperatures have increased by 4 degrees celsius in 2080, every ecosystem will have been pushed past its limits. And we won't just be seeing those effects on the news. We could be living it everyday, regardless of where on Earth we live.

(This took the student roughly 30-35 minutes to write!)