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Engaging in Reading      • Infer      • Visualize      • Find important ideas

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3. Using information from this selection, explain how carbon offsetting affects global warming.

**LEVEL ONE**

**Example 1**

Carbon offsetting could affect global warming in a variation of ways. Carbon offsetting could be using money that we should be using to put towards global warming. There are much bigger problems with global warming that need to be fixed rather than with carbon offsetting.

CO<sub>2</sub> being absorbed in plants is a good thing, however, if the plant dies this is not so good anymore. When the plant dies it releases the carbon which affects global warming. Although it may seem like a good idea we also need to think about how it could affect the future.

**Example 2**

Carbon offsets affects global warming b/c the mass burning of fossil fuels has raised CO<sub>2</sub> levels by over 30%, creating an imbalance in the natural carbon cycle. The result of too much CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere could be a significantly warmer earth.

Thinking	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<i>Making Inferences</i> Makes and explains inferences and interpretations supported by stated and implied ideas from the text	Limited: makes simple, unsupported inferences and interpretations; may be illogical	Partial: makes and supports simple, reasonable inferences and interpretations with some specific evidence	Considerable: makes and supports logical inferences and interpretations with specific evidence	Highly effective: makes and supports logical, insightful inferences and interpretations with specific, convincing evidence

Responses require students to understand explicit and implicit information in the text.

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**LEVEL TWO**

**Example 1**

Carbon offsetting reduces global warming because people are finding ways to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. There are two main ways to offset carbon emissions, they are planting trees and investing in Alternative Energy Projects.

Trees act as a temporary storage vault by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> and emitting oxygen. Trees take 40-50 years to grow and often die from disease or insects.

People could also offset their carbon through alternative energy, conservation programs, or research and development into green technology.

**Example 2**

Carbon offsets is a new solution that allows individuals and companies unable to reduce their own CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions elsewhere. There are two ways offsets work, planting trees, and investing in alternative energy projects. By planting trees we are allowing the CO<sub>2</sub> to become absorb, and in return emitting oxygen. The planting of trees is beneficial to preventing global warming in the sense of absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> and omitting oxygen. But it also has its disadvantages, as it takes 40-50 years for trees to become useful in storing CO<sub>2</sub>, in this time frame global warming will continue to heat the earth, investing in alternative energy projects can be very beneficial as well as long as the money invested leads to energy savings, that otherwise not occur. This could become very effective now and in the future.

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### LEVEL THREE

#### Example 1

Carbon offsets have a positive affect on global warming because it reduces the amounts of carbon emissions that are released into the world's air.

If you find ways to reduce the carbon emissions in the world, it will help the globabl warming in the world. Two examples of carbon offsets are planting trees adn creating alternate energy sources. Carbon offsets are a good way of helping reduce the effects of global warming.

Planting trees helps reduce carbon emissions because they absorb carbon and act as storage vaults for carbon. If you create an alternate energy source such as wind or solar energy it too reduces carbon emissions.

Global warming does not need to be an issue but if the world changes and reduces carbon emissions we can reduce the effects of global warming.

#### Example 2

Everything we do has a reaction in some sence, wether it be good or bad. By having a high carbon footprint by driving SUV's or leaving your computer on, you are only contributing to this national crisis. I believe carbon offsetting affects global warming in a good way. By reducing our own impact, or helping to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in other ways, we are helping in lowering the impact of greenhouse gases on our environment.

A huge way of carbon offsetting is changing energy sources. If we were to change to wind, solar or hydro energy sources, tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> could be prevented from entering our atmosphere. You can say that maybe one person can't make a change, but when we all come together we can make a difference. We can lower our carbon and ecological footprints and help save our planet.

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**LEVEL FOUR**

**Example 1**

Carbon offsetting affects global warming in a positive way. Those who take part in carbon offsetting activities or projects are already aware of the effects of too much CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and are trying to balance their CO<sub>2</sub> output by investing in "green" projects. The amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in our air is the main reason for global warming. If everyone decreased their carbon footprint by doing such things as planting trees, driving hybrids and switching to 18 watt fluorescent light bulbs, the risk for global warming would decrease. Carbon offsetting, which involves investing in alternative energy projects, means that we are developing ways to be less dependent on burning fossil fuels. So carbon offsetting results in "cleaner" energy sources, and less CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere, and an improvement in the global warming situation.

**Example 2**

Carbon offset is affecting global warming, and can continue to affect global warming by changing, the day-to-day lives of the world citizen. By changing how the citizens of the world think about global warming, and alternative energy solutions and how our world can become a very Green environment. One of the ways we are trying to change global warming by using carbon offset is to plant many trees. Also we can use alternative energy sources to offset or carbon emissions. By planting trees, it absorbs the CO<sub>2</sub> and emits oxygen into the air. Also by using solar and wind energy we burn less fossil fuels and decrease the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

We can all learn a lesson from David Suzuki's Foundation in India, that turned agricultural waste from sugar cane and coconut leaves that would normally have been burned, instead power a turbine to produce electricity. Over 7 years the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted will be 60 000 tonnes less entering the atmosphere. This would offset the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in a year by 40 000 SUVs!

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