

Fact and Opinion - 3

Heating Things up on the Internet

Laurie David Speaks about Global Warming

Laurie David founded the Virtual March on Washington earlier this year. Her goal is to educate people about global warming and its affects on the environment. If you go to her website, www.stopglobalwarming.org, you can sign up to learn about how global warming is affecting our planet. I spoke with David about how her virtual march is going to make a difference.

Can you explain how your project, The Virtual March, is helping to stop global warming?

Here's the thing. Our leaders in Washington make the laws, and they can change the laws if people get involved. The people, all of us, have to demand this change. It's important that we have change. And the virtual march is where we're going to try and do that, so we are marching on the Internet. We are going to get so big, and we're going to get so strong. We're going to make our voice so loud, that Congress and the media are going to have to face this problem now. There's no way they can ignore us.

What is the ultimate goal for the virtual march?

- 1) Admit that global warming is happening now.
- 2) Admit that we are causing it.
- 3) Start on a serious path to solving it.

Those are the goals of the march. All you need is an email address. You can let your fingers do the marching. People are on the computer all the time anyway. Now, they can use their computer. It's the ultimate act of activism.

How do you get people to care about global warming, especially if they can't see its effects on their local environments?

One of the things that we are doing on the march is going to a different location every other week. So once you join the march, every other week you are going to get information. (Over the summer, we were) at Glacier National Park, Montana. And the glaciers are melting. I think that one very interesting thing this summer is that we're starting to see reports of people connecting the dots between extreme weather conditions and global warming. They (some scientists) have now come out and said that the reason that these hurricanes are so fierce is global warming.

What can kids do to stop global warming? How can they get involved in the march?

Kids can join the march and send it (the link) to five friends. And then they can think of other ways to get people marching, like if they are in a Girl Scout troop, or a Brownie troop or a Boy Scouts troop, or if they belong to a Temple or a Church. They can start talking this up. They can get other people to join the march.

What is the most important message that you would like to tell kids about global warming?

Nothing is going to impact your life and your plans for the future more than global warming. And the time has come now to admit that we have this problem and admit we're all causing it. We need to seriously start solving it. And this is obviously about the future, but it's about today, too. The future matters just as much as the present, and we should learn from our past.

"Heating Things up on the Internet" by Allison Berliner

1. Which of the following is a fact?

- A. The future matters just as much as the present, and we should learn from our past.
- B. And the time has come now to admit that we have this problem and admit we're all causing it.
- C. And this is obviously about the future, but it's about today, too.
- D. So once you join the march, every other week you are going to get information.

2. Which of the following is a fact?

- A. The future matters just as much as the present, and we should learn from our past.
- B. We're going to make our voice so loud, that Congress and the media are going to have to face this problem now.
- C. One of the things that we are doing on the march is going to a different location every other week.
- D. Nothing is going to impact your life and your plans for the future more than global warming.

3. Which of the following is an opinion?

- A. And the virtual march is where we're going to try and do that, so we are marching on the Internet.
- B. Our leaders in Washington make the laws, and they can change the laws if people get involved.
- C. One of the things that we are doing on the march is going to a different location every other week.
- D. Nothing is going to impact your life and your plans for the future more than global warming.