

Task 1

Aufgaben PLUS Tipps PLUS Lösungen PLUS

Part One: Non-Fiction Text

► **Thema:**

Richard Schiffman: "Rain-Forest Threats Resume."

Pope Francis: Laudatio Si. Chapter One; Pollution and climate change [23] and [25] (24th May 2015)

► **Aufgabenstellung:**

Do the following tasks, using your own words as far as appropriate.

Describe the changes in Brazil's environmental situation.

Analyze the implications deforestation of the Amazon and climate change have worldwide. Consider both texts.

State the intention of each text and show how language and style support it.

"When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume." (Chapter 6 [204])

Pope Francis (born 1936)

Reflect on this statement. Write a text of about 350 words and count your words.

Tipp

Deine Aufgabe ist es, den Wandel in der Umwelt Brasiliens darzustellen. Analysiere dabei, wie es zu diesem Wandel kommen konnte und welche Folgen weltweit dadurch entstehen. Wichtig ist, dass du dich dabei auf beide Texte beziehst und eigene Formulierungen verwendest. Du kannst und solltest natürlich direkte und indirekte Zitate verwenden und somit deine Argumente untermauern.

Danach solltest du dich mit der Intention des jeweiligen Text befassen. Wie wird diese Intention jeweils durch Sprache und Stil unterstützt?

Es ist also wichtig, dass du dir den Text nochmals unter diesen Gesichtspunkten durchliest und auf Sprache und Stil achtest.

Until recently Brazil had a pioneering role when it came to fighting the problem of deforestation. Efforts, initiatives and laws by the government made it possible that deforestation decreased sharply between 2004 and 2011. Since 2014, however, this trend reversed and large-scale deforestation is taking place once again and the positive effects of the last years vanished.

Einleitung

This development is concerning but not coming out of nowhere. The major factor which is causing this kind of reverse is economic. Rising beef prices have caused a change of hearts and farmers want to profit from this situation by cutting down forests and let cattle graze on their land.

It is however not only the farmers who forced this change but also politicians. Brazil's president, Dilma Rousseff, has switched sides and no longer pursues the goal of stopping deforestation. She wants to

build new hydroelectric dams as well as a new motorway which cuts right through the heart of the Amazonas (Text, line 13-14). People that were sanctioned for cutting down the rainforest in the past are now receiving amnesty for their actions, turning the plans of previous years upside down.

These actions don't come without consequences; the climate is already being affected and reduced moisture in the south of Brazil is a reason for concern. A drought in Sao Paulo is believed to be directly linked to these actions described.

Hauptteil

Gründe für den Wandel

People that assume that this is strictly a Brazilian problem are seriously off track. The deforestation of the Amazon will affect the climate of the whole Western Hemisphere since it will have destabilizing effects on the weather system. The exact fallout is still a mystery, yet the chances are high that the snowfall in California's Sierra Nevada would go down by 50%. This is pretty concerning since the meltwaters are very important for the agricultural output of California. The West Coast drought could also quite possibly been caused by the deforestation.

Climate change is a major obstacle we have to face in the 21st century. It not only affects the the environment but also has an lasting impact on politics and socio-economics developments.

The countries that will get the short end of the deal are especially developing and third world countries. Those countries that still rely heavily on agricultural output, will have to face the most devastating consequences. That is not just a theory but in some areas already the reality, where families have to move on to other areas and countries. This illustrates that the effects of climate change are already in full swing. This is only the beginning of a problem that could dictate the global future.

Analyse der Auswirkungen

Each text is written for a specific kind of readership. The source of the first text is the magazine *Scientific Readership*, which has an audience interested in the topic of ecological awareness. The second text is written by Pope Francis and aimed at the members of the Catholic Church and people all around the world.

Text 1 wants to inform about the drastic developments in Brazil concerning the deforestation and the consequences. The message is clear; if this trend continues, we will have serious repercussions in the Western Hemisphere. The text is based on facts and merits which makes it reasonable. The text also triggers some emotions with phrases like "the plague of deforestation" (Text, line 1) and the fact that a major highway "will slice through the pristine heart of the Amazon" (Text, line 13). It is also directed at an educated reader since there are terms like Imazon (Text, line 7) and INPA (Text, line 21) which requires background information. Text 1 also includes scientific terminology like "atmospheric moisture" (Text, line 18).

These examples confirm that the readership needs to be educated and knowledgeable about the topic.

Text 2 has a much broader audience. The Pope addresses people all over the world. Therefore the language is not as scientific. Pope Francis points at shortcomings when it comes to climate change and wants the readers to understand that this is something that we are all responsible for when it says "Our lack of response" (Text, line 24). The text by the Pope is also much more emphatic, as in phrases like "grave implications" and "great uncertainty" (Text, line 8 and 18). The sentence structure is also much more simplistic than in Text 1, which is logical since the readership is much broader and operates at a lower level when it comes to the topic of climate change.

Absicht der Texte

Sprache und Stil

Both texts want to make people aware of the obstacle we are facing when it comes to climate change. While Text 1 is much more scientific and aimed at a smaller readership, the text by Pope Francis directed at a broader readership and thus much more basic. Yet both have one thing in common; a type of rethinking has to take place in order to save this planet.

Schluss

"When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume." (Chapter 6 [204])

Pope Francis (born 1936)

Reflect on this statement. Write a text of about 350 words and count your words.

Tipp

Bei dieser Aufgabe sollst du dir eine Meinung zum Zitat von Papst Franziskus bilden. Dabei kannst du sowohl zustimmen aber auch widersprechen. Wichtig ist dabei, dass du deinen Standpunkt gut fundiert vertreten kannst.

Bedenke, dass deine Antwort circa 350 Wörter umfassen soll und diese am Ende gezählt werden müssen.

Pope Francis said an interesting thing about the self-centered nature of human behaviour. I found this remark interesting and want to elaborate on it.

Einleitung

The message of the quote by the Pope is clear: the more you care about yourself, the more your character flaws will show. While I certainly agree with the sentiment of the statement, I still find it ironic that it comes from the Catholic Church. The church has had a long history of greedy behaviour. For centuries they fleeced people all around the world. Scandals involving the Bishop of Limburg represent only the tip of the iceberg of a system that has no interest in reveal its financial records or paying taxes in general.

Hauptteil

Den eigenen

kritischen
Standpunkt
darlegen

Apart from this critical view that I have on the operations and history of the Catholic Church, I have to say that I agree with the isolated message of the quote. I think a lot of the problems in this world stem from self-centered and self-enclosed behaviour. If all of us would just take a step back and think about how much greater this world could be if we'd care more about others, this world would be a greater place. A constant reminder of this fact would improve the way we treat each other.

Pope Francis is also critical of the consumerism of today's world. Consumerism can cause problems, since it establishes a world built on fantasies and psychological warfare in the form of advertising. This is the negative side of it, yet you could also look at the benefits of it. Consumerism creates jobs all around the world and lays the foundation for employment. Without people buying stuff, the world would be bleak.

Zustimmung

I actually agree with the sentiment of Pope Francis' quote. If we all decide to care more about others, the coexisting on this planet would be a lot easier and less conflicts would take place. The one thing I view critically, however, is the fact that it comes from the head of the Catholic Church and the fact that this institution is at the center of the problem that is issued.

Schluss

(361 words)