

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Climate change personality**

Yale Project on Climate Change and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication study U.S. Americans' opinions about climate change. They have identified six groups of Americans based on attitudes and beliefs related to climate change.

1. Go to <http://uw.kqed.org/climatesurvey/index-kqed.php> to take the *Six Americas* survey. To which category do you belong?

**The 6 Americas are**

- 🌐 **Alarmed** People in this category are absolutely convinced that climate change is a real phenomenon that is happening now, is being caused by humans, and poses a serious threat. "Alarmed" people are already taking action in their own lives to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and are concerned about which steps they should take next.
- 🌐 **Cautious** People in this category are not sure whether or not climate change is a real phenomenon and are not sure whether climate change is natural or human caused. "Cautious" people are not particularly focused on the issue of climate change at this time.
- 🌐 **Concerned** People in this category believe that climate change is a real phenomenon, is being caused by humans, and is a serious problem. However, "concerned" people believe that climate change is a distant problem, rather than a current one. They have not become personally involved with the issue of global climate change by taking steps in their lives to reduce their emissions.
- 🌐 **Disengaged** People in this category have heard of climate change but do not know anything about the causes, impacts, or potential solutions.
- 🌐 **Doubtful** People in this category are not really sure that climate change is happening, but if it is happening, they believe that climate change is natural, is not a problem or much of a risk, and will not impact humans.
- 🌐 **Dismissive** People in this category do not believe that climate change is happening and that the concept of climate change is a hoax or conspiracy.

2. Is the category to which you belong the most accurate description of how you feel about climate change? If not, which category better describes you and why?

3. Why is it important to understand the public's attitudes about climate change?

**Social vulnerability to climate change**

A community's vulnerability is determined by considering the possible loss of life or property that could result from environmental hazards. The Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute also studies the concept of **social vulnerability**, which is determined by considering the "social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics that affect a community's ability to respond to, cope with, recover from, and adapt to environmental hazards." Most scientists consider climate change as an environmental hazard.

1. Go to the following URL: <http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri/products/sovi.aspx>. This map illustrates the 2006-2010 social vulnerability to environmental hazards for each county in the United States. The red represents the most vulnerable 20% of counties in the US. The blue represents the least vulnerable 20% of counties in the US. The white represents the middle 60% with respect to vulnerability in the US. Find your county on the map. Does your county have a low, medium, or high social vulnerability to environmental hazards? Which factors do you believe are playing a role in your county's in-/vulnerability?

2. Navigate to the following URL: <http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri/products/sovifaq.aspx> and read the section entitled, “What Population Characteristics Affect Vulnerability?” Each characteristic has a description and one or more categories with a + or – following them. The + and – refers to whether or not the category increases (+) or decreases (-) social vulnerability. For example, under ‘Residential property,’ living in a mobile home increases (+) one’s social vulnerability to environmental hazards. Fill in the table below according to your population characteristics.

Factor	You		Your Community	
	vulnerable	protected	vulnerable	protected
Socioeconomic status				
Gender				
Race & ethnicity				
Age				
Employment loss				
Rural/Urban				
Residential property				
Renters				
Occupation				
Family structure				
Education				
Medical services				
Social dependence				
Special-needs				

3. After completing this exercise, would any of your responses in the climate personality survey change? Do you think understanding personal risks could change the feelings of the US population enough to affect national change on climate issues? Why or why not?