**Sample Discount Rate Follow-On Discussion Assignment Tied to Economics of Climate Change**

Examine these excerpts from the report “The Economics of Global Climate Change” from Tufts University and answer the following questions.

(<http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/education_materials/modules/The_Economics_of_Global_Climate_Change.pdf>)

If we do not change our current emissions of greenhouse gases, Table 3 gives the estimated annual damage to the US economy at different future years.

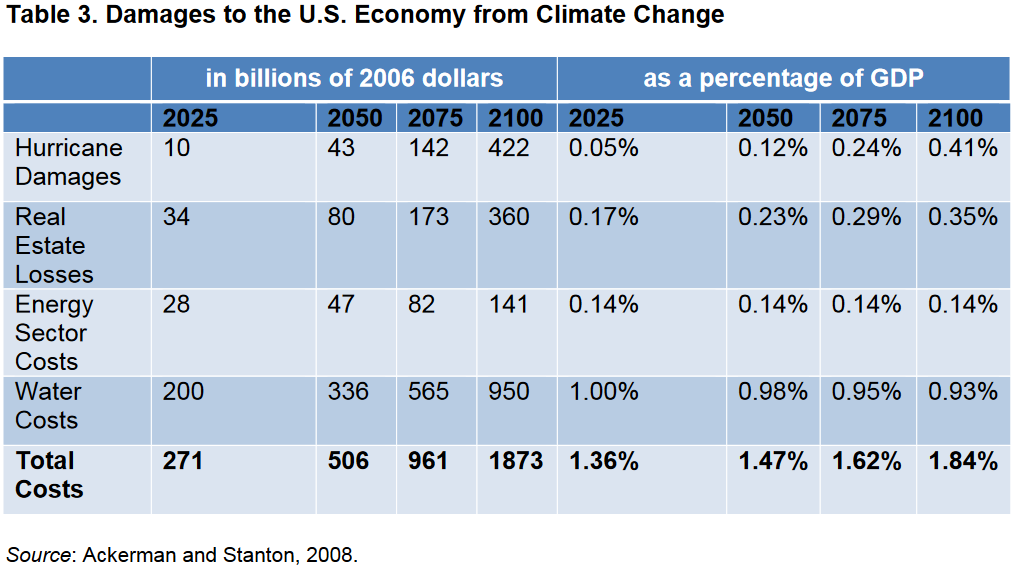
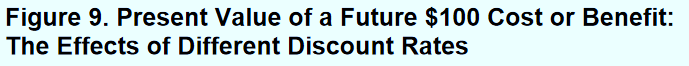
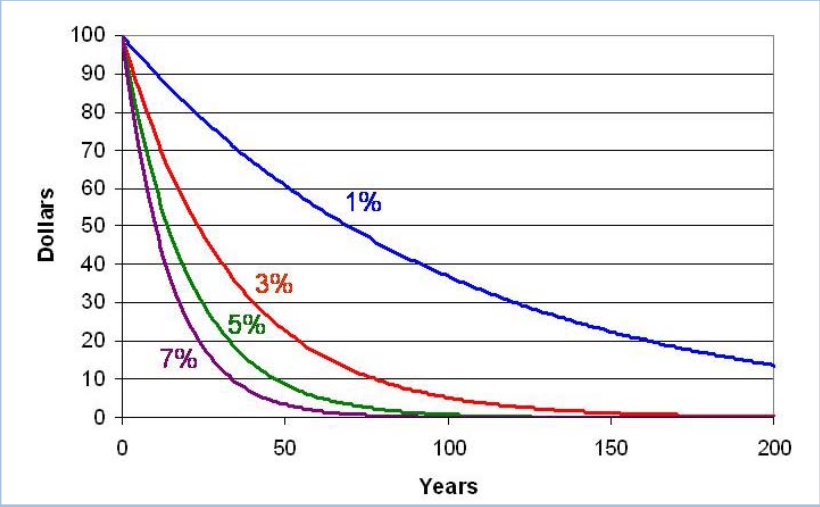
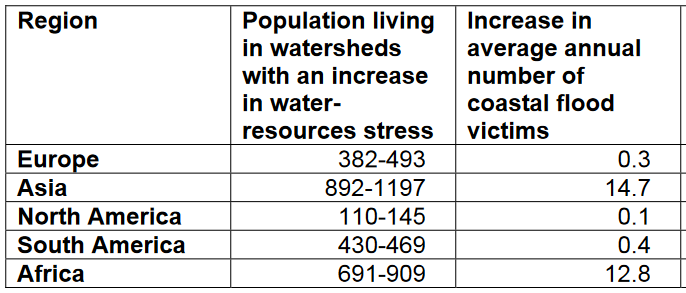
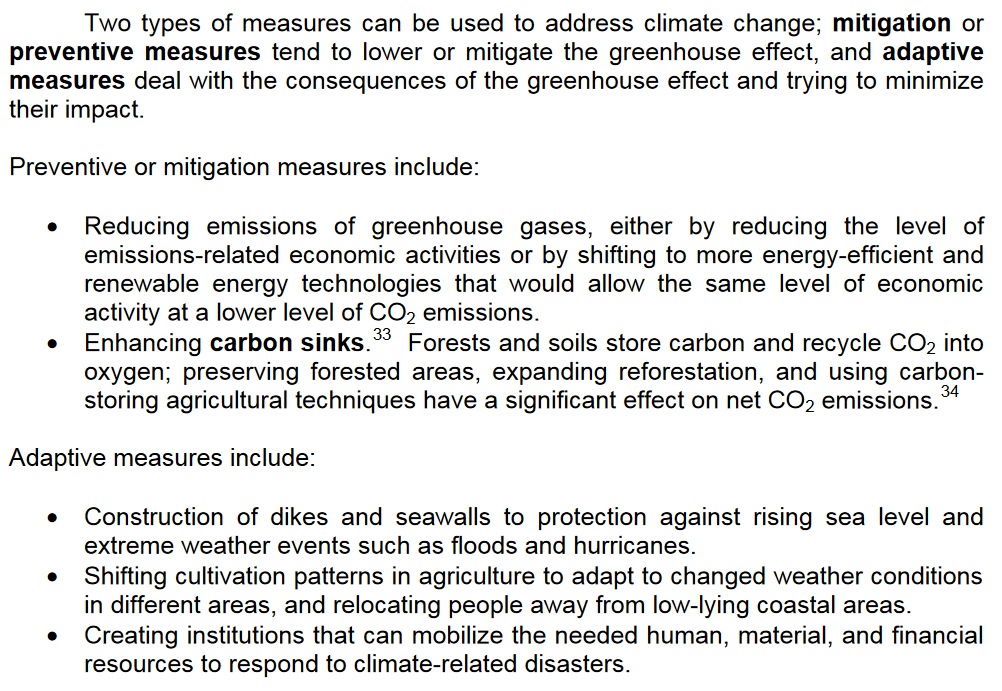
1. What trends do you see in Table 3? What is interesting about Table 3?
2. What does Figure 9 show about present value of future costs or benefits 50, 100 or 150 years from now at different discount rates?
3. Why would Figure 9 be important when we are using the information from Table 3?

Table 4. Regional-scale impacts of climate change by 2080   
(millions of people)

1.  What does Table 4 show about the impacts of climate change in 2080 if we do nothing to change current trends?



1. Who in the economy might like a preventive approach to climate change and who would prefer an adaptive approach?
2. What are some difficulties in using cost-benefit comparisons to determine the appropriate response to global climate change?