

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Topic:** Climate change

**EFL CEFR Level:** C1

**Main objectives:**


- Students will be able to talk about climate crisis.
- Students will become aware of the use of metaphor in communicating climate change.

**Method:** Frame-inspired TBLT (pre-task, task cycle, language focus)

**Metaphor:** ADDRESSING SOCIAL PROBLEMS IS WAGING WAR; PLANET EARTH IS X; CLIMATE CHANGE IS X

**Materials:** PC, Internet, texts, FrameNet, MetaNet

**Skills involved:** listening, speaking, reading, writing

 **How to cite:**

Dalpanagioti, Thomai (2024). *Metaphor Task Bank*. <https://www.new.enl.auth.gr/flt/metaphor-task-bank>

## A) Pre-task



- Watch the video titled “Fighting Climate Change to Save Our One Shared Home” at WWF’s website <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYD7lz6wCZ4> (2 minutes). What does the word “home” refer to? How is nature described at the beginning and at the end of the video? Why is the verb “fight” repeatedly used in the video?
- Watch the beginning of the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tykLKCT7DyY> (0:30 minutes). What is the target audience of the video? How is climate change explained?
- Compare the images created in your mind by the two videos and the aims served.

## B) Task cycle

### 1. Task

- Form groups of four and read your task.

*Climate change is a complex and long-term phenomenon involving a variety of challenges, aspects and perspectives. Search the Internet for terms like 'climate change', 'global warming', 'ozone layer depletion', 'deforestation', 'plastic pollution' to find out how climate change is represented by the news media.*

### 2. Planning

- Organize the information you have collected and prepare the report you will present to the class.

### 3. Report

- Choose a member of your group to present your work.
- Decide which message (e.g. urgency, solidarity) is communicated more effectively.



## C) Language focus

### 1. Analysis

When we think of and talk about a *social problem*, we often use words that have a connection with *war*.

- Read the following extract from a news article and answer the following questions.

#### ***A World at War***

##### ***We're under attack from climate change – and our only hope is to mobilize like we did in WWII.***

In the North this summer, a devastating offensive is underway. Enemy forces have seized huge swaths of territory; with each passing week, another 22,000 square miles of Arctic ice disappears. Experts dispatched to the battlefield in July saw little cause for hope, especially since this siege is one of the oldest fronts in the war. “In 30 years, the area has shrunk approximately by half,” said a scientist who examined the onslaught. “There doesn’t seem anything able to stop this.”

In the Pacific this spring, the enemy staged a daring breakout across thousands of miles of ocean, waging a full-scale assault on the region’s coral reefs. In a matter of months, long stretches of formations like the Great Barrier Reef – dating back past the start of human civilization and visible from space – were reduced to white bone-yards.

Day after day, week after week, saboteurs behind our lines are unleashing a series of brilliant and overwhelming attacks. In the past few months alone, our foes have used a firestorm to force the total evacuation of a city of 90,000 in Canada, drought to ravage crops to the point where southern Africans are literally eating their seed corn, and floods to threaten the priceless repository of art in the Louvre. The enemy is even deploying biological weapons to spread psychological terror: The Zika virus, loaded like a bomb into a growing army of mosquitoes, has shrunk the heads of newborn babies across an entire continent; panicked health ministers in seven countries are now urging women not to get pregnant. And as in all conflicts, millions of refugees are fleeing the horrors of war, their numbers swelling daily as they’re forced to abandon their homes to escape famine and desolation and disease.

World War III is well and truly underway. And we are losing.

It’s not that global warming is *like* a world war. It *is* a world war. And we are losing. The question is, will we fight back? And if we do, can we actually defeat an enemy as powerful and inexorable as the laws of physics?

<https://newrepublic.com/article/135684/declare-war-climate-change-mobilize-wwii>

- a) Read about the ADDRESSING SOCIAL PROBLEMS IS WAGING WAR metaphor in [MetaNet](https://metaphor.icsi.berkeley.edu/pub/en/index.php/Category:Metaphor) (<https://metaphor.icsi.berkeley.edu/pub/en/index.php/Category:Metaphor>). What do global warming, physics, firestorms, droughts, floods, and mosquitoes resemble?
- b) Find words in the text that are used metaphorically to create the impression that climate change is a war. Use [FrameNet](https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/framenet_search) ([https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/framenet\\_search](https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/framenet_search)) to group the words together according to their meaning.
- c) Is war imagery used sparingly in the text or does it extend over the whole description of the situation? What is the effect created?

## 2. Practice

### Activity 1

Here are some extracts from news articles about climate change. Each article uses a different frame metaphorically to highlight different aspects of the situation. Match each text with a frame. Justify your answer using [FrameNet](https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/framenet_search) ([https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/framenet\\_search](https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/framenet_search)).

Extracts from news articles	Frames
<p><b>a)</b></p> <p>The world has reached a “pivotal moment” and must change course in the next two years or risk runaway climate change, UN Secretary-General António Guterres told the General Assembly. “Climate change is moving faster than we are – and its speed has provoked a sonic boom SOS across our world. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the past two decades included 18 of the warmest years since record-keeping began in 1850.</p> <p><b>b)</b></p> <p>The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, recently declared, “The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived.” This is likely an allusion to the proverbial frogs swimming in a pot of water that is being heated so that the frogs are boiled and die without ever realizing what is happening. But we humans are not frogs and can indeed tell when the temperature of our surroundings has gone up too high. In response, we need to take emergency actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Absorb_heat]</li> <li>• [Artifact]</li> <li>• [Competition]</li> <li>• [Motion]</li> </ul>

<p><b>c)</b></p> <p>Coal, oil and gas are the cogs in the climate change wheel, as world cooperation is more critical each day. The stakes are too high with absolutely no room at the climate table for bruised egos, hurt feelings or perceived disrespect, with only actions and answers deserving attention.</p> <p><b>d)</b></p> <p>A novel economic model for reducing deforestation is being proposed by the Coalition for Rainforest Nations at the current United Nations climate change conference in Montreal. A new player in the climate change game, the coalition is proposing economic incentives for conserving tropical forests while contributing to climate stability. [...] To help level the playing field, the rules must be revised to make carbon credits from reduced deforestation tradable in carbon markets on a par with other offsets.</p>	
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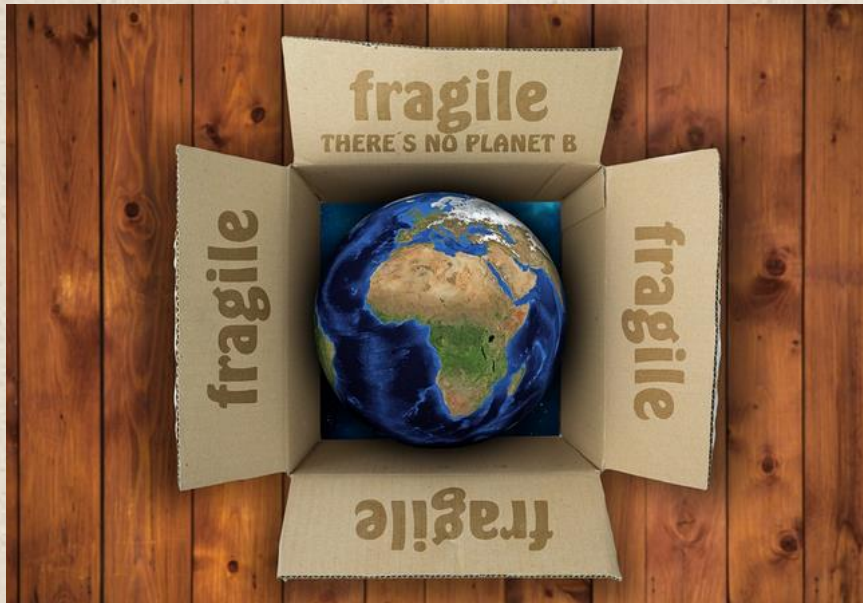
## Activity 2

Work in pairs and prepare a **MetaNet** entry for a metaphor about climate change. Work in the following way:

- Read the **MetaNet** entry for the metaphor ADDRESSING SOCIAL PROBLEMS IS WAGING WAR ([https://metaphor.icsi.berkeley.edu/pub/en/index.php/Metaphor:ADDRESSING SOCIAL PROBLEMS I S WAGING WAR](https://metaphor.icsi.berkeley.edu/pub/en/index.php/Metaphor:ADDRESSING_SOCIAL_PROBLEMS_IS_WAGING_WAR)), which extends over the text “A World at War” we have already discussed. Notice the types of information included in the entry.
- Search the Internet to find out how climate change is metaphorically described in another news article (e.g. <https://amp.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/30/climate-crisis-crime-fossil-fuels-environment>).
- Create your metaphor entry by including:
  - a) Source and Target frames
  - b) Example sentences from the text illustrating the metaphor
  - c) Mappings (correspondences between the Source and Target frames)

### Activity 3

Discuss in pairs the message conveyed by the metaphors used in the above extracts. Which metaphor do you think is more effective?



### **D) Follow-up project**

Present your own alternative to the war metaphor for describing climate change.

Instructions:

- Work in groups.
- Describe an aspect of climate change in a short news article (300-350 words).
- Build your text on a metaphor. Use [FrameNet](#) to elaborate on the image you wish to create.
- Prepare yourselves to present your text and to explain your metaphor in class.
- Express your opinion about the other groups' work.

Well done! You have created a **Metaphor Menu for Climate Change** that might help people understand, feel, evaluate and respond to this multi-faceted global issue.