

Part B: Forming scientific arguments

Rick Perry is a governor in Texas and was one of the republican candidates for the US election in 2002. The quote below comes from a press conference, when Perry described his doubts about global warming.

“I do believe that the issue of global warming has been politicised. I think there are a substantial number of scientists who have manipulated data so that they will have dollars rolling into their projects. I think we're seeing it almost weekly or even daily, scientists who are coming forward and questioning the original idea that man-made global warming is what is causing the climate to change. Yes, our climates change. They've been changing ever since the earth was formed. /.../ The science is not settled on this. The idea that we would put Americans' economy at jeopardy based on scientific theory that's not settled yet to me is just nonsense.”

How would you argue against the argument made by Rick Perry?

Write a text where you use your knowledge about global warming, the carbon cycle, scientific methods, etc. Think about what kind of arguments Perry makes use of – which are based on facts and which are based on values and opinions?

Do not forget to provide scientific justifications for your arguments. Adapt your text in order to convince supporters of Perry's argument. Use the rubric to check your answer.