



Invent the Sustainable Future



# Sustainability Beliefs of First-Year Students in Natural Resources

D. J. Orth, K. H. Cowgill, D. F. Stauffer, and E. P. Wiseman

March 24 2012





## **Dominant Social Paradigm**

- Humans have right to modify environment
- Plants and animals exist to be used by humans
- Human ingenuity will ensure a livable earth
- Plenty of natural resources
- Balance of nature will cope
- Ecological crisis exaggerated

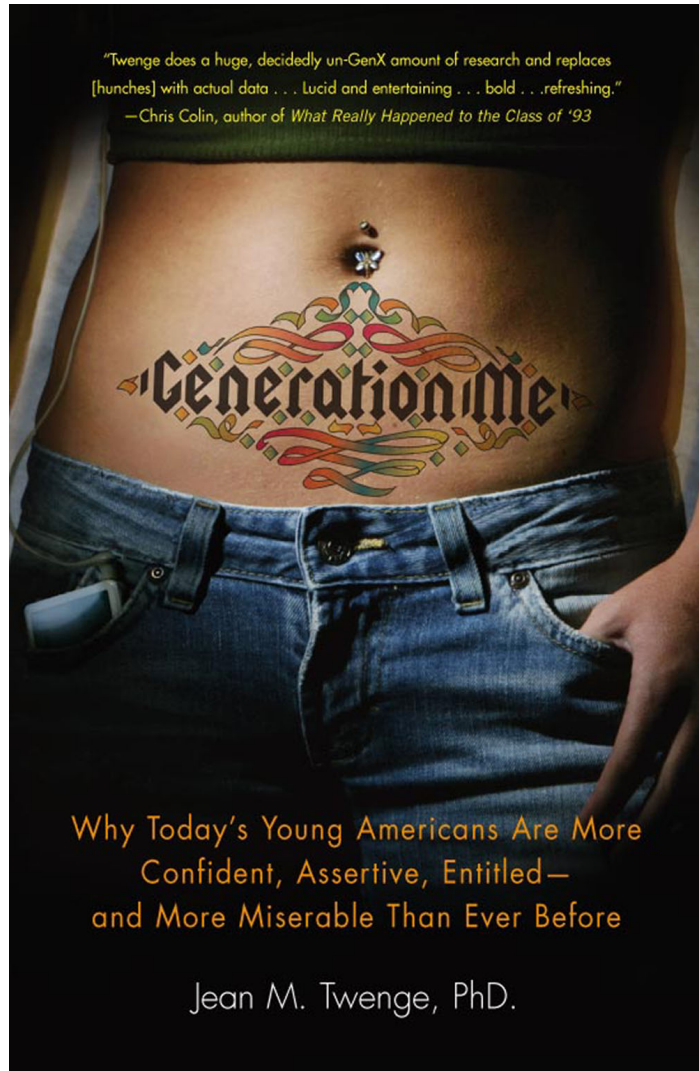
## **New Ecological Paradigm**

- Approaching limits
- Balance of nature
- Steady state economy
- Spaceship earth
- Limits to industrial growth
- Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist



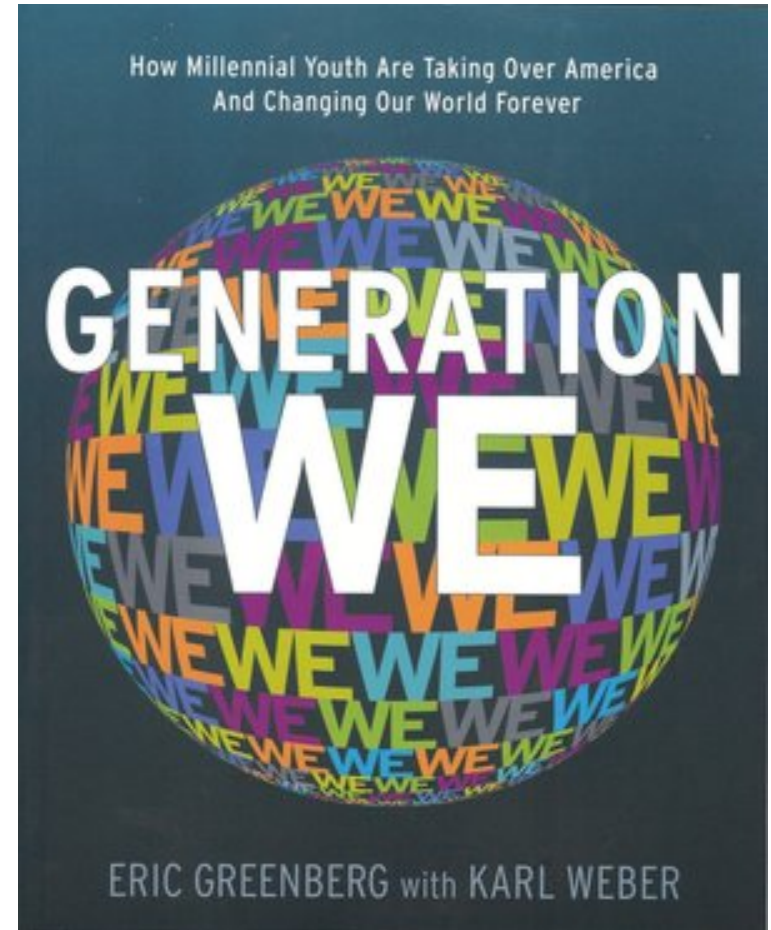


"Twenge does a huge, decidedly un-GenX amount of research and replaces [hunches] with actual data . . . Lucid and entertaining . . . bold . . . refreshing."  
—Chris Colin, author of *What Really Happened to the Class of '93*



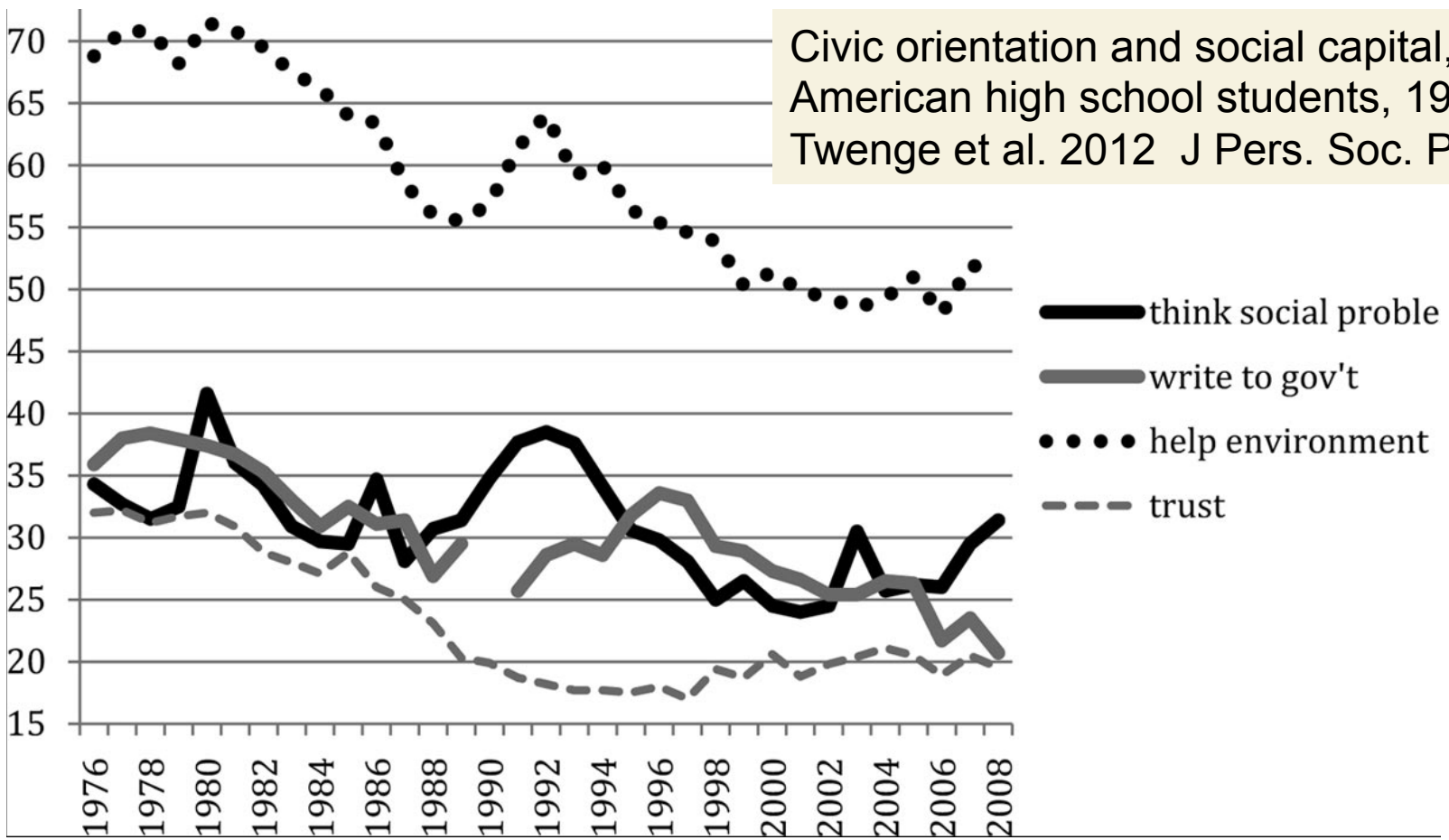
Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—  
and More Miserable Than Ever Before

Jean M. Twenge, PhD.





Civic orientation and social capital,  
American high school students, 1976–2008  
Twenge et al. 2012 J Pers. Soc. Psych.







New Ecological Paradigm

# METHODS

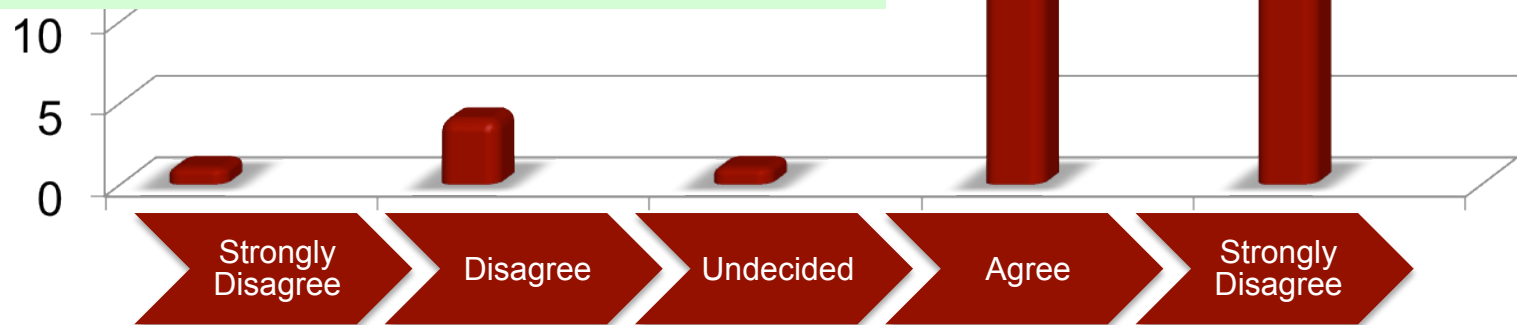
IRB #11-77





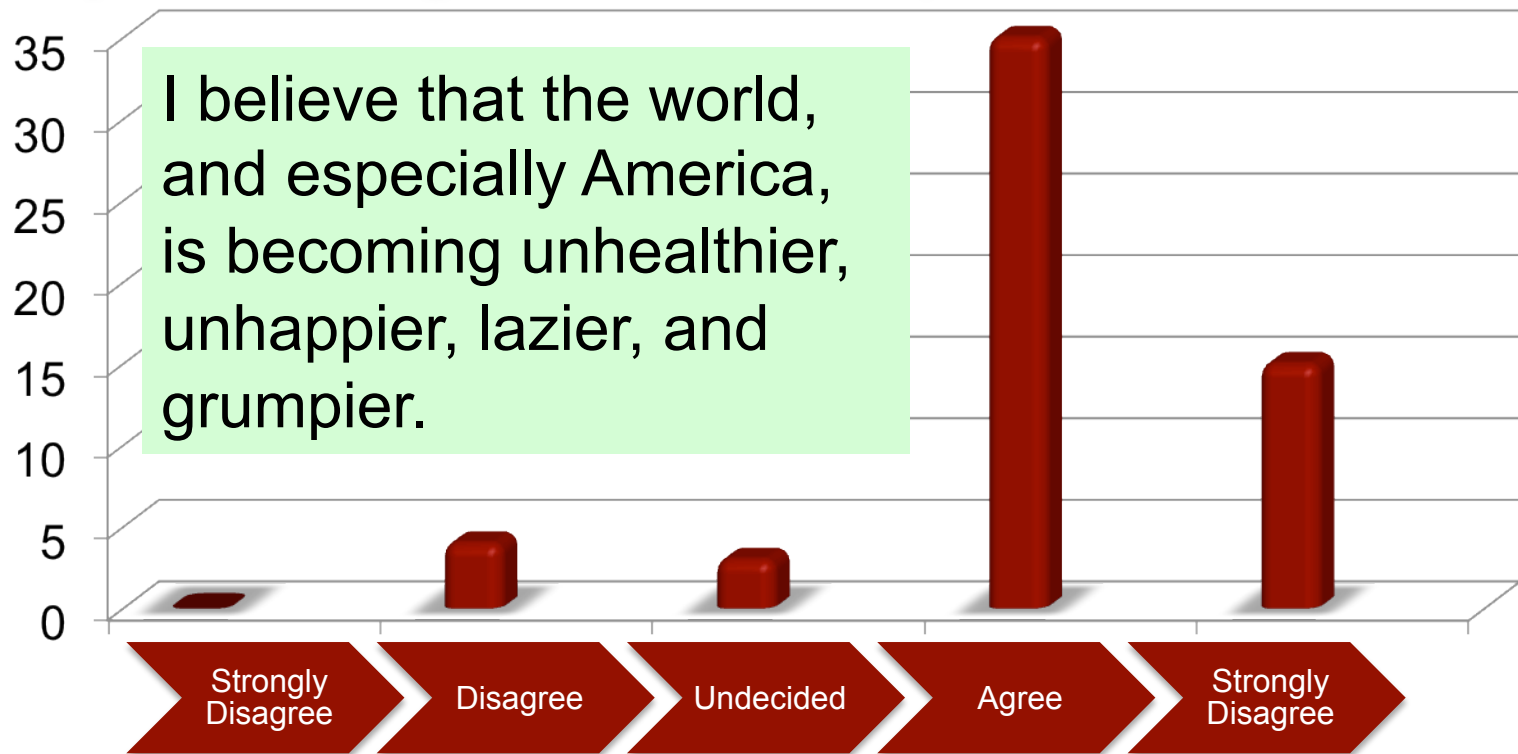
# Humans are severely abusing the environment

..”we should protect our marine biodiversity and cherish it with all we have and as of lately we have been messing up with those ideas. “ R. A.





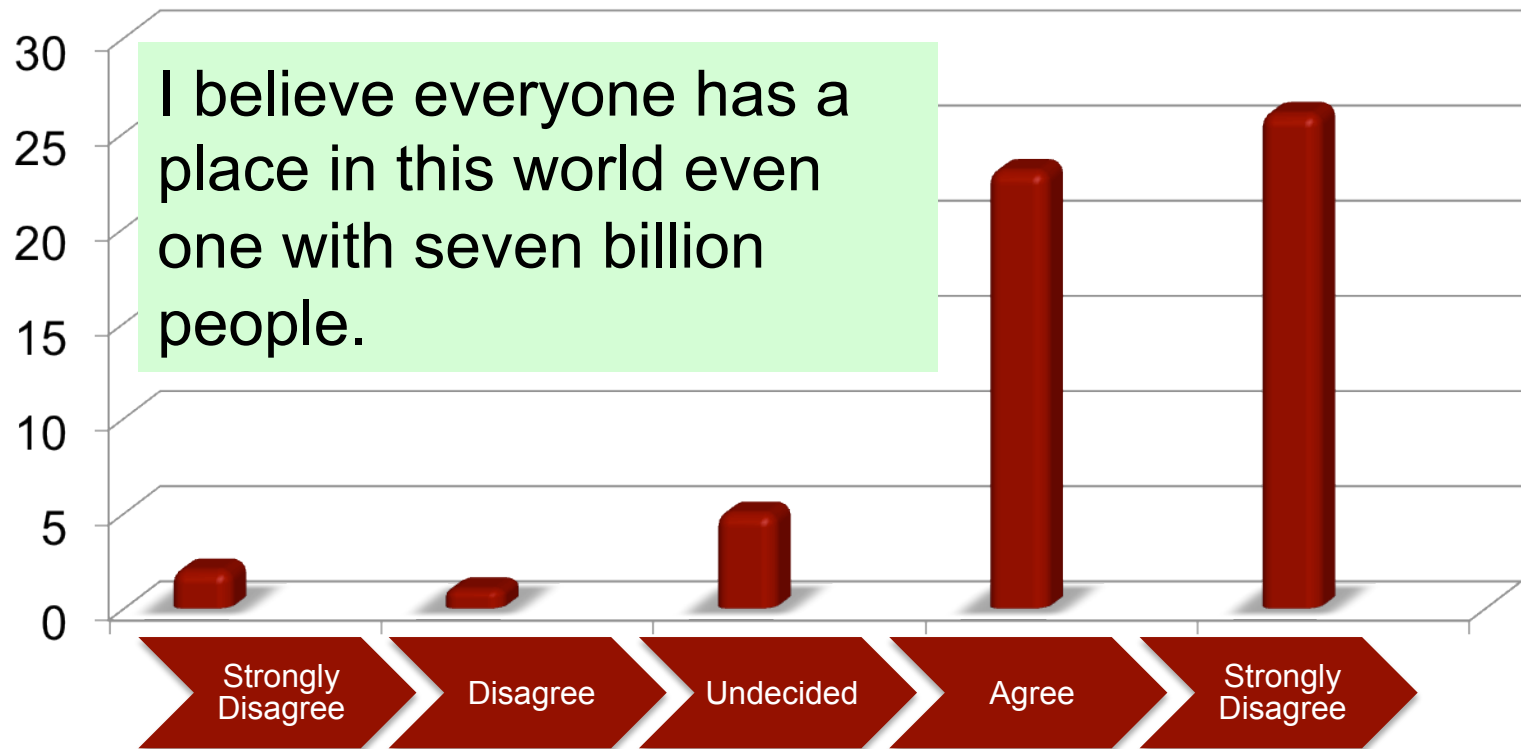
# Our present course will soon lead us to a major ecological catastrophe





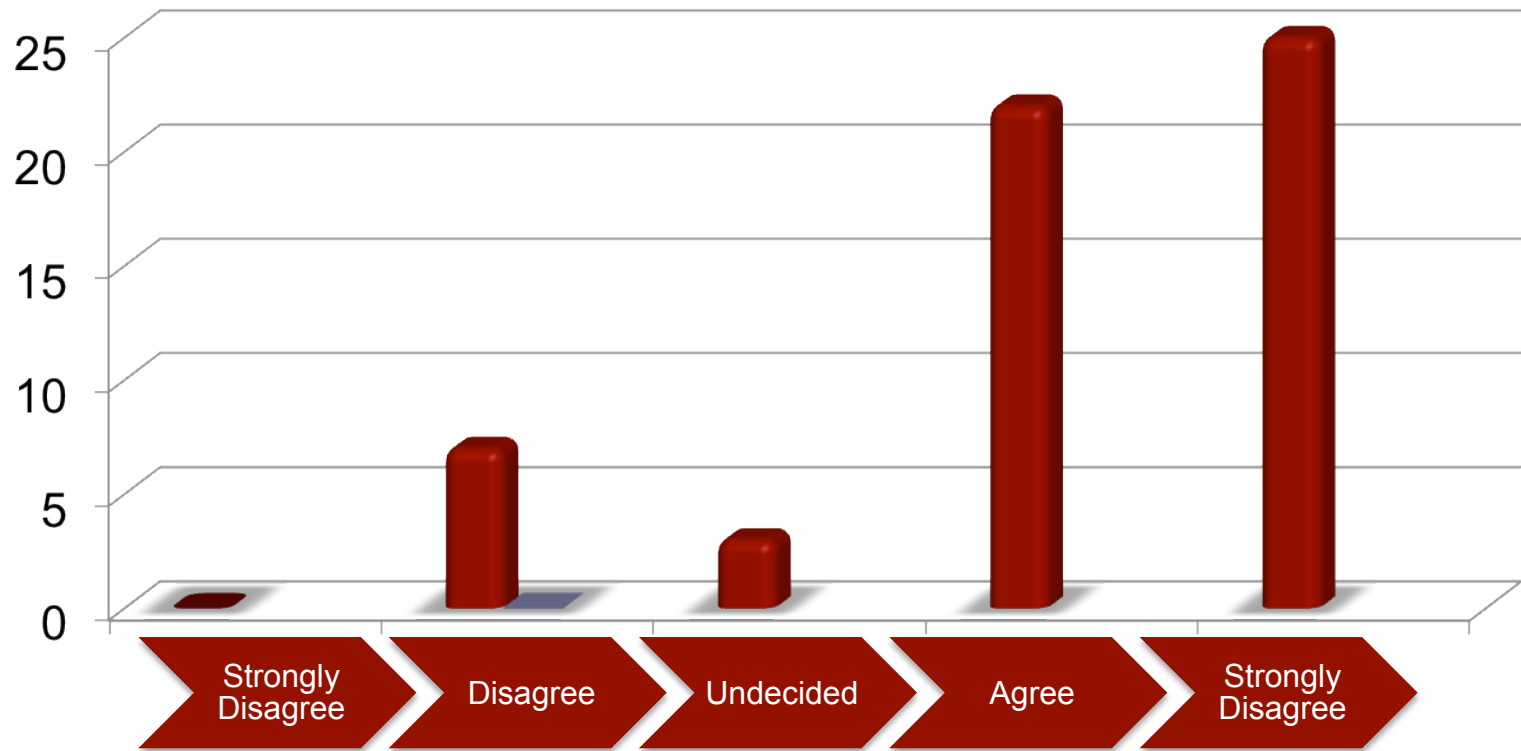


# The lives of all human beings are of equal value



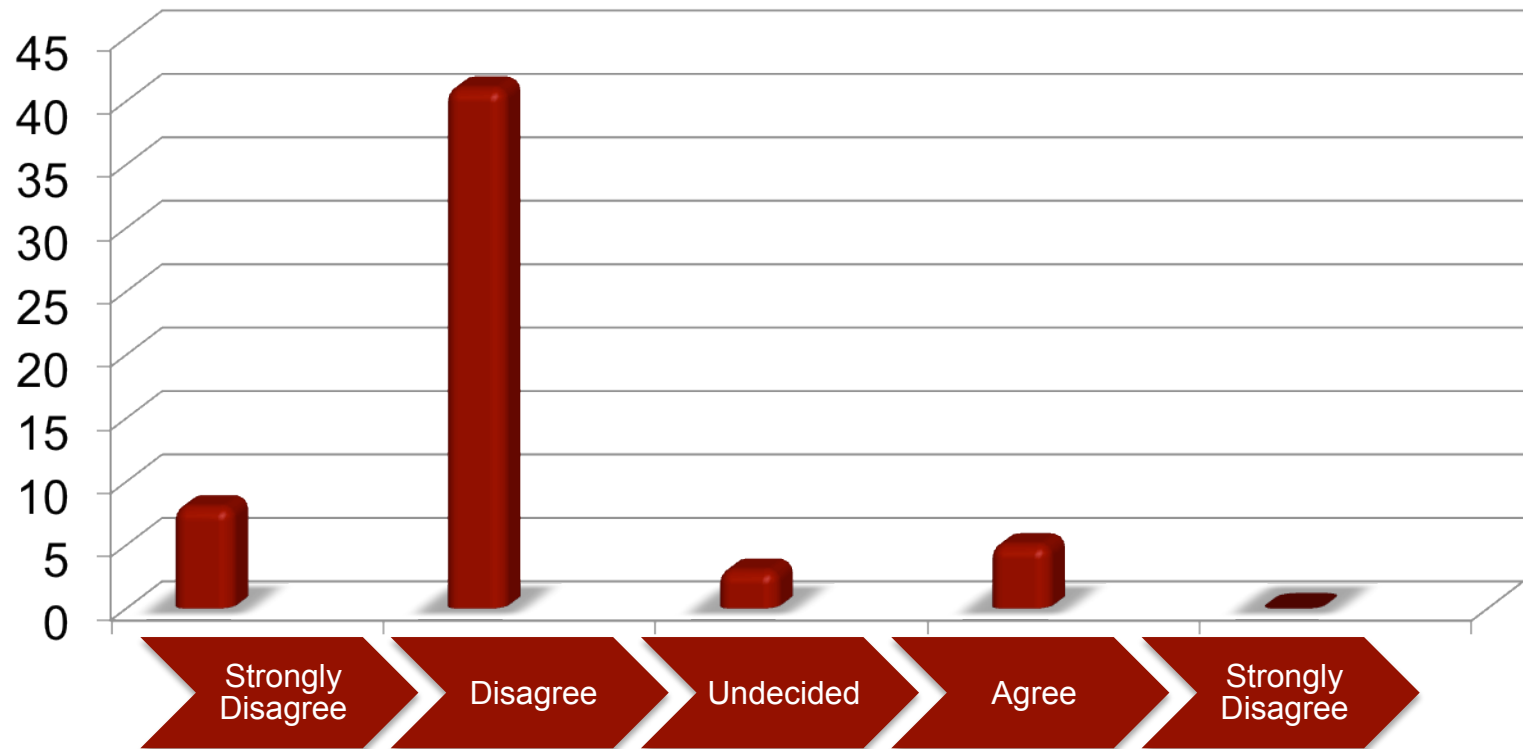


# We are approaching the limit of the number of people the earth can support





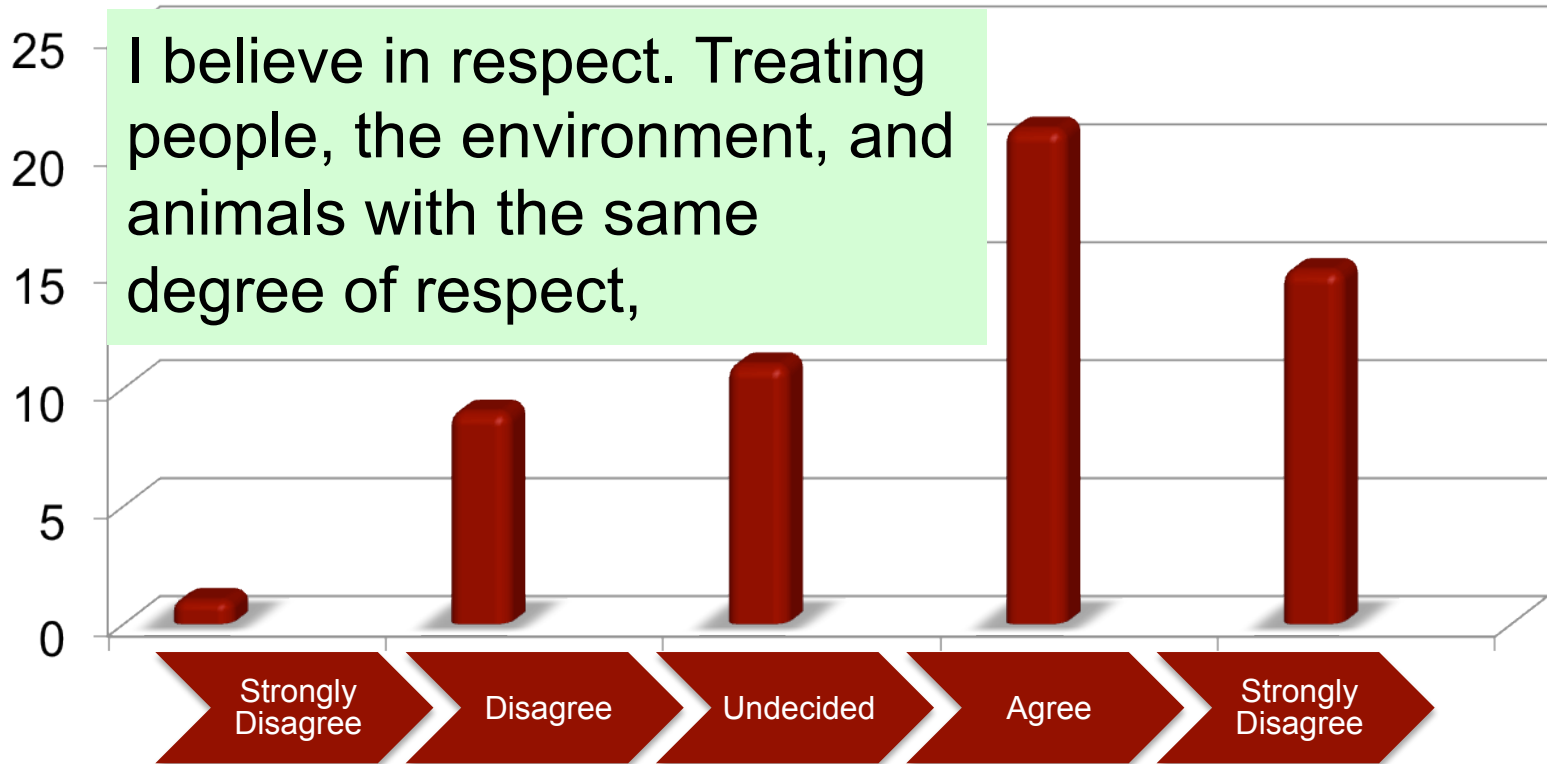
# Nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations





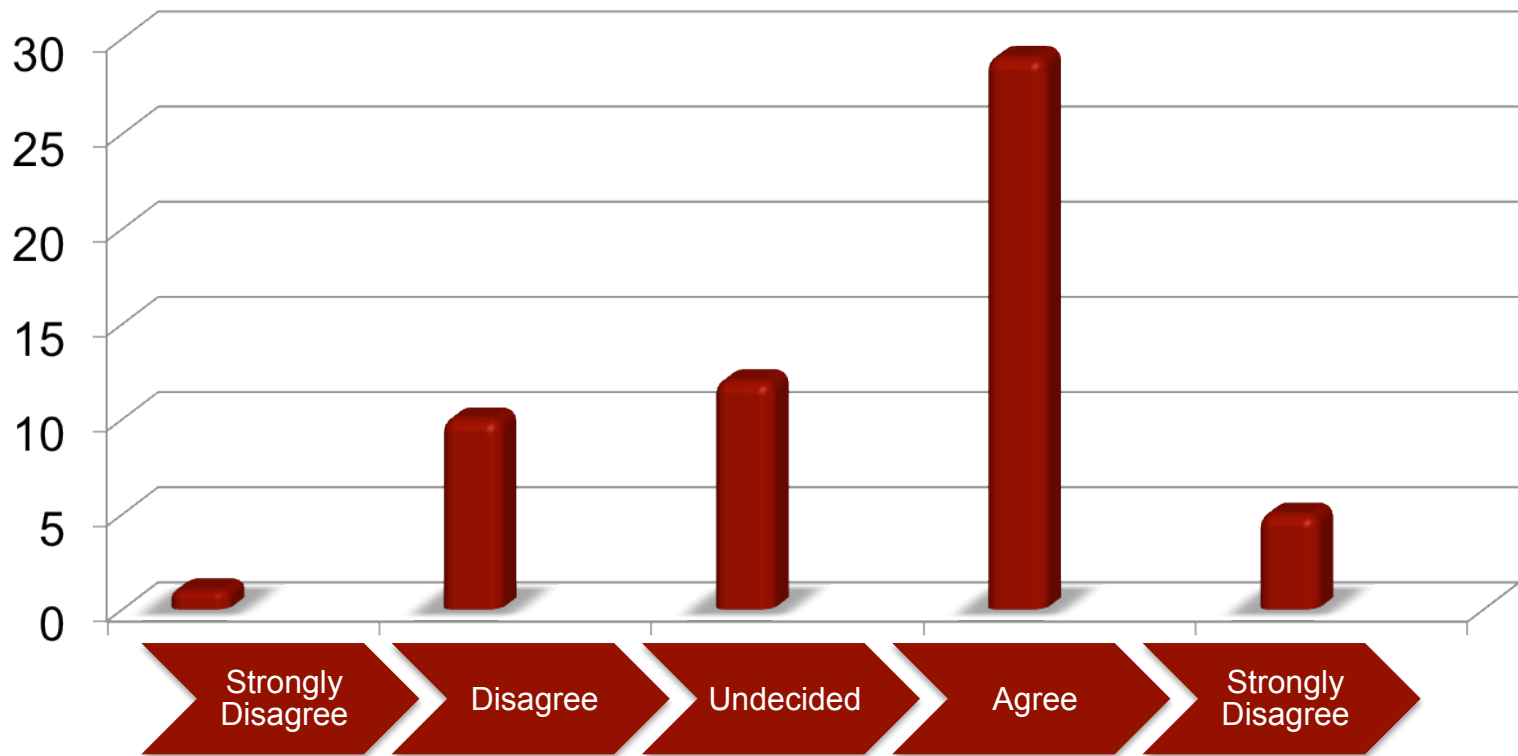


# Plants and animals have an equal right as humans to exist



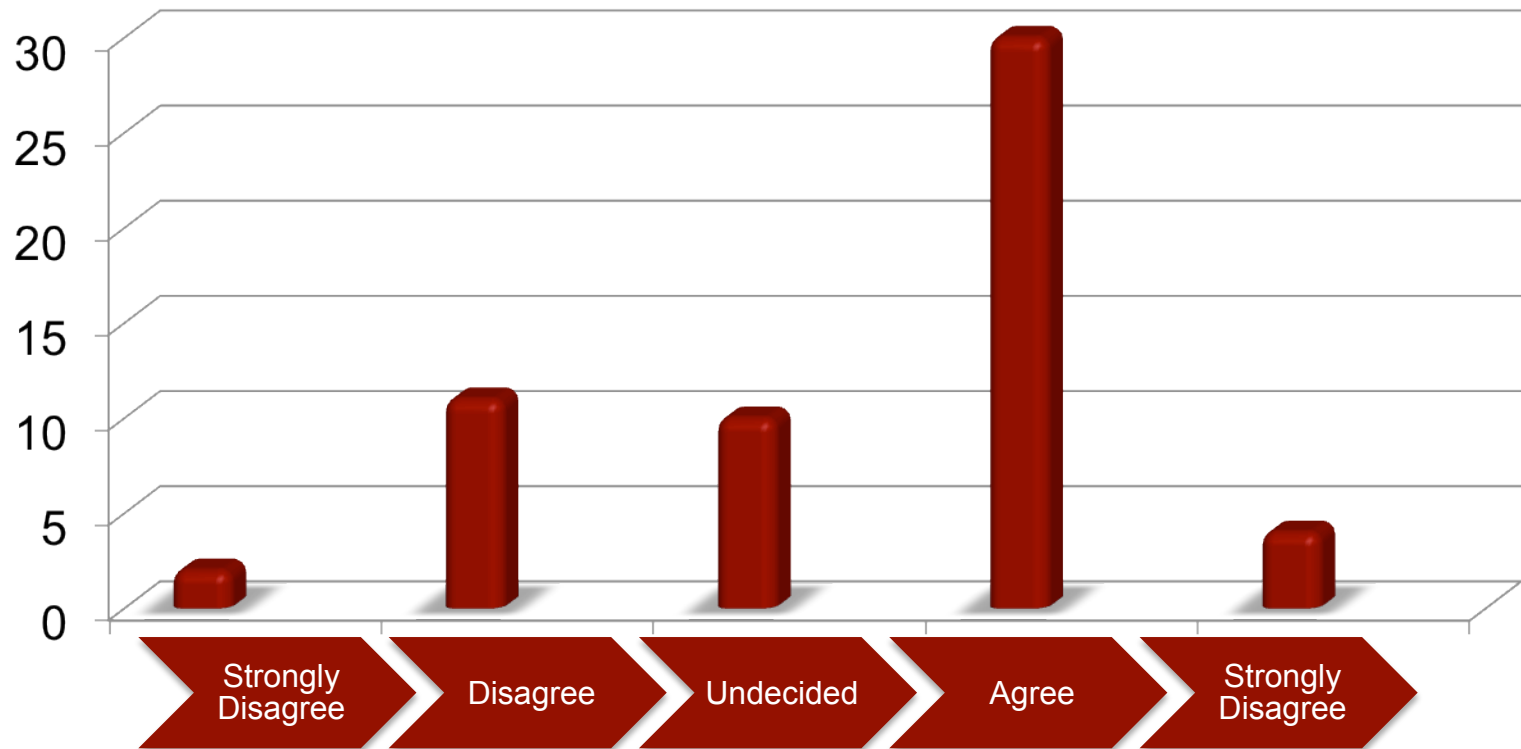


# In a world rich in resources poverty is an injustice that must be overcome





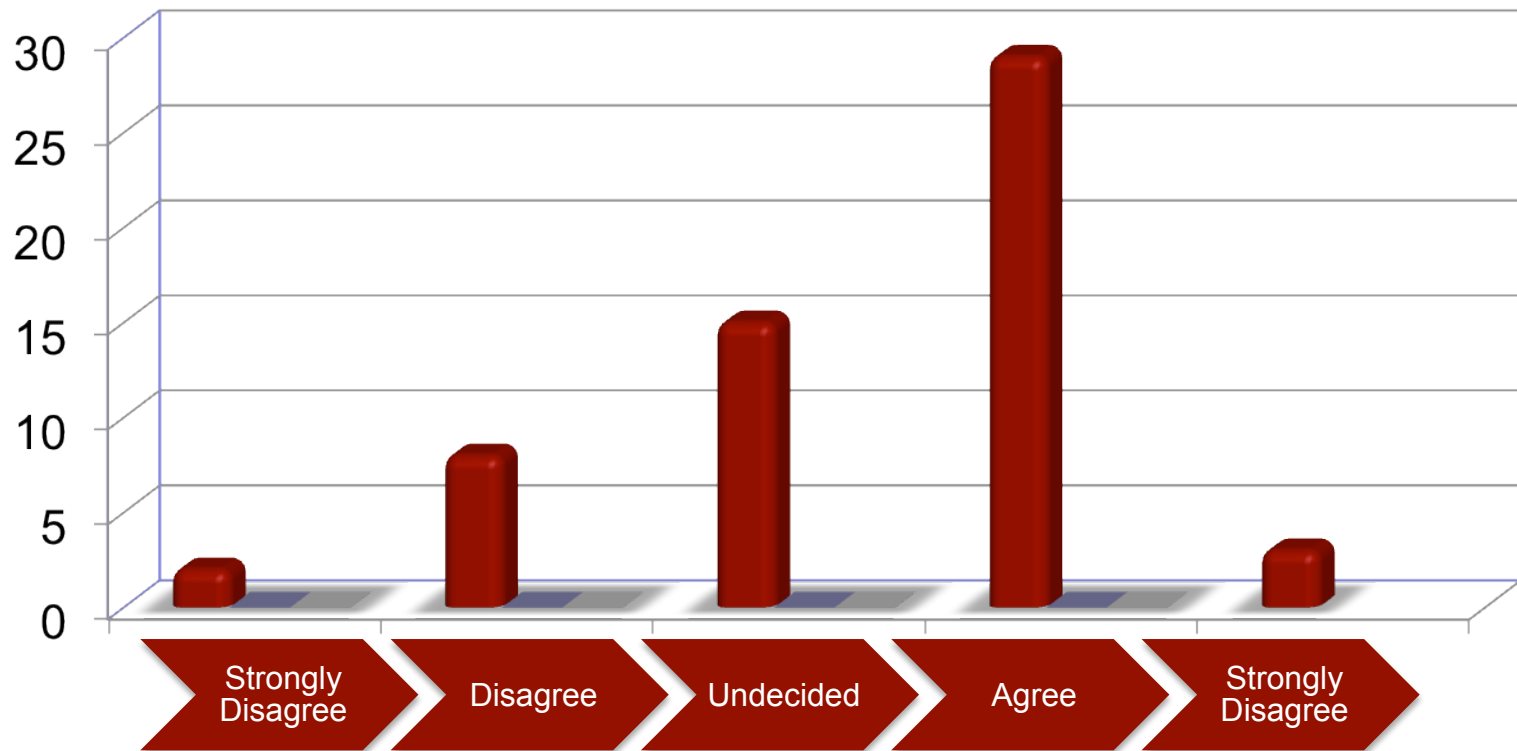
# The earth has plenty of natural resources, we just have to develop them properly





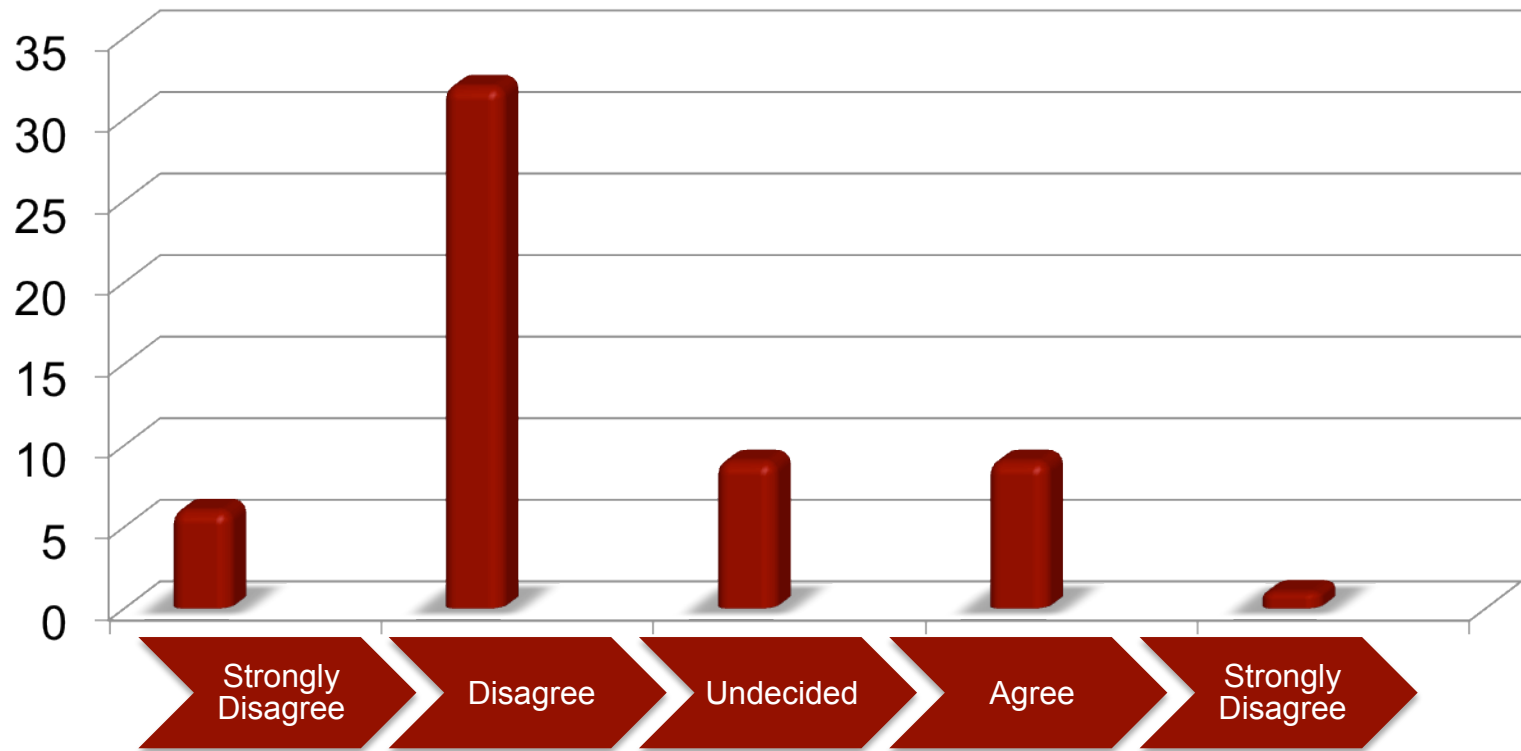


# The rewards arising from economic development are unfairly distributed



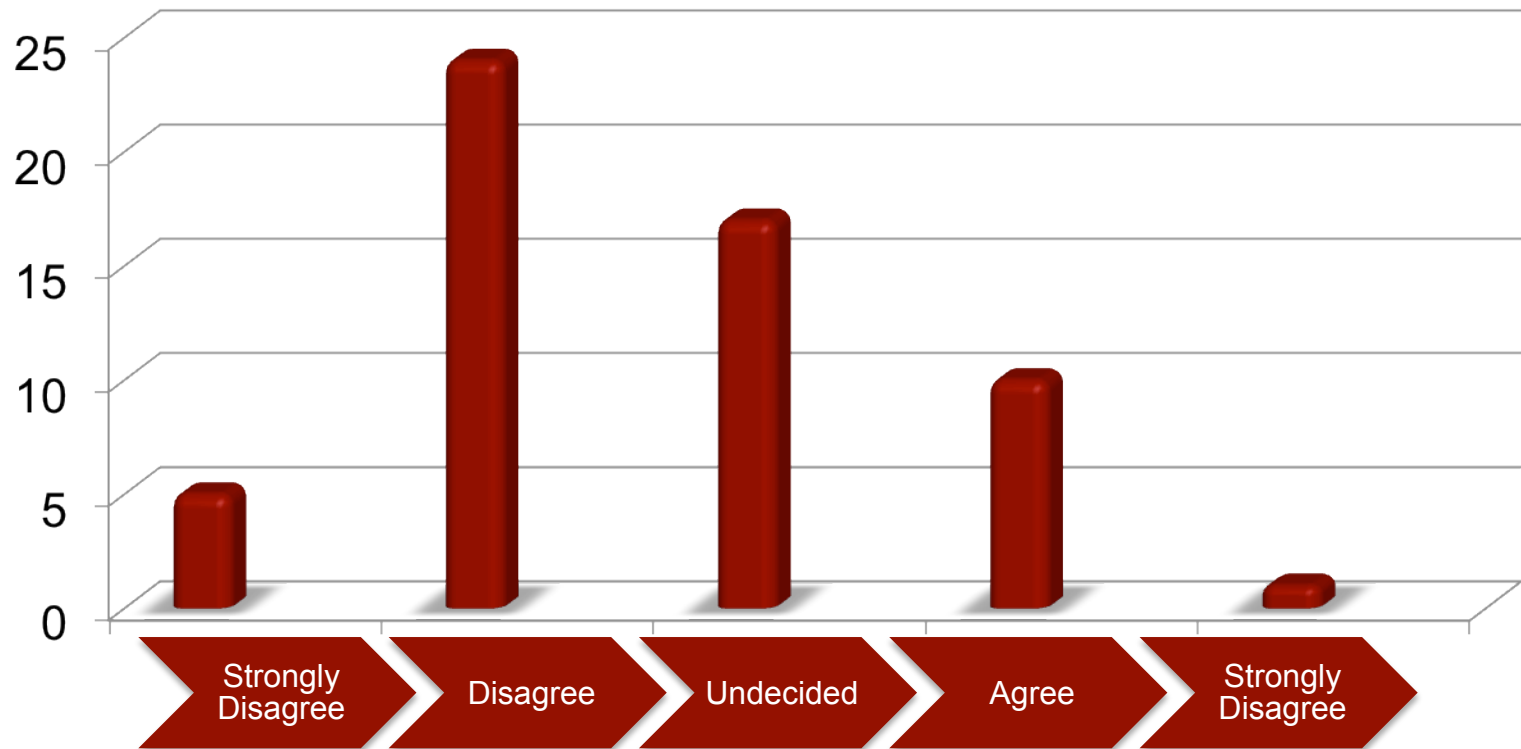


# The so-called ecological crisis facing humankind is greatly exaggerated





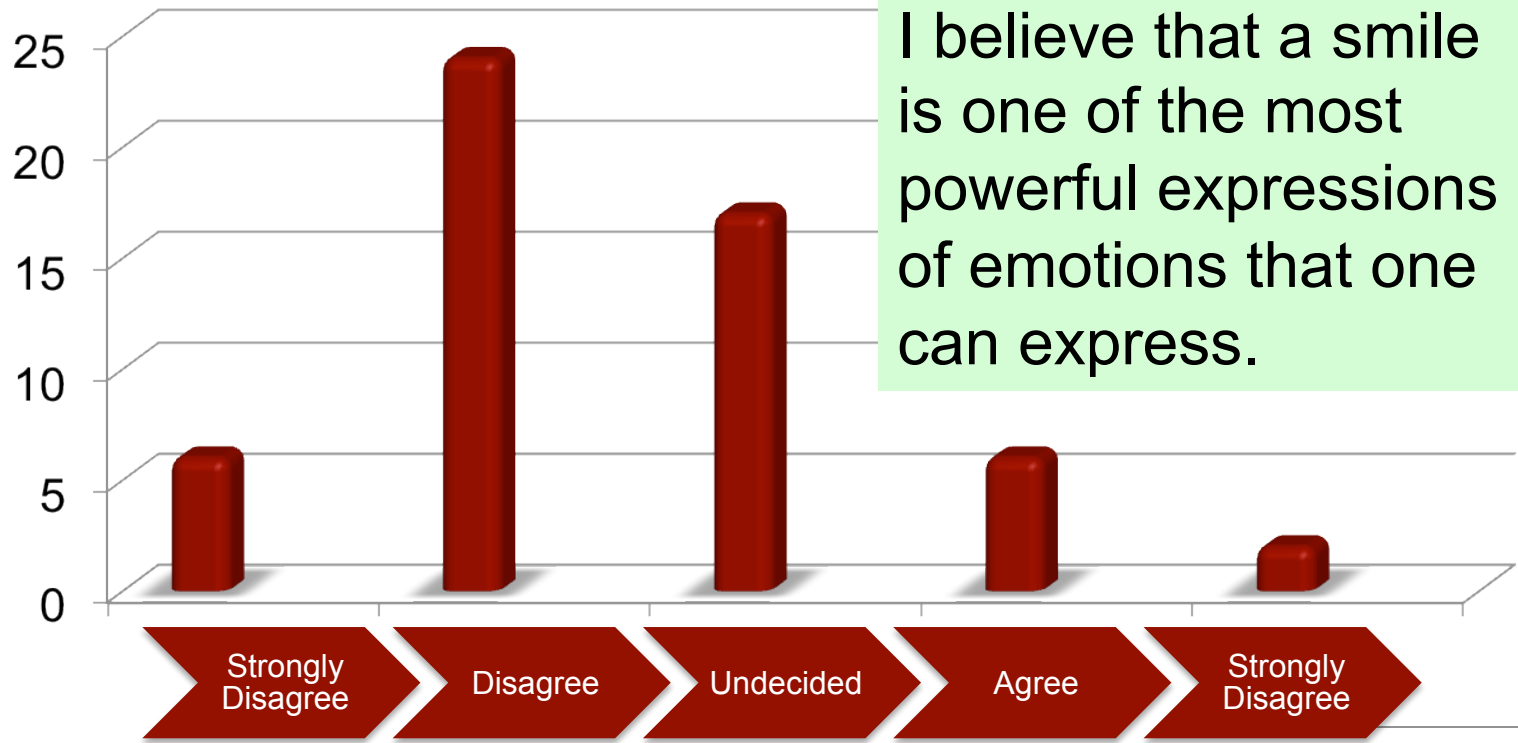
# The priority for rich nations must be their own economic growth







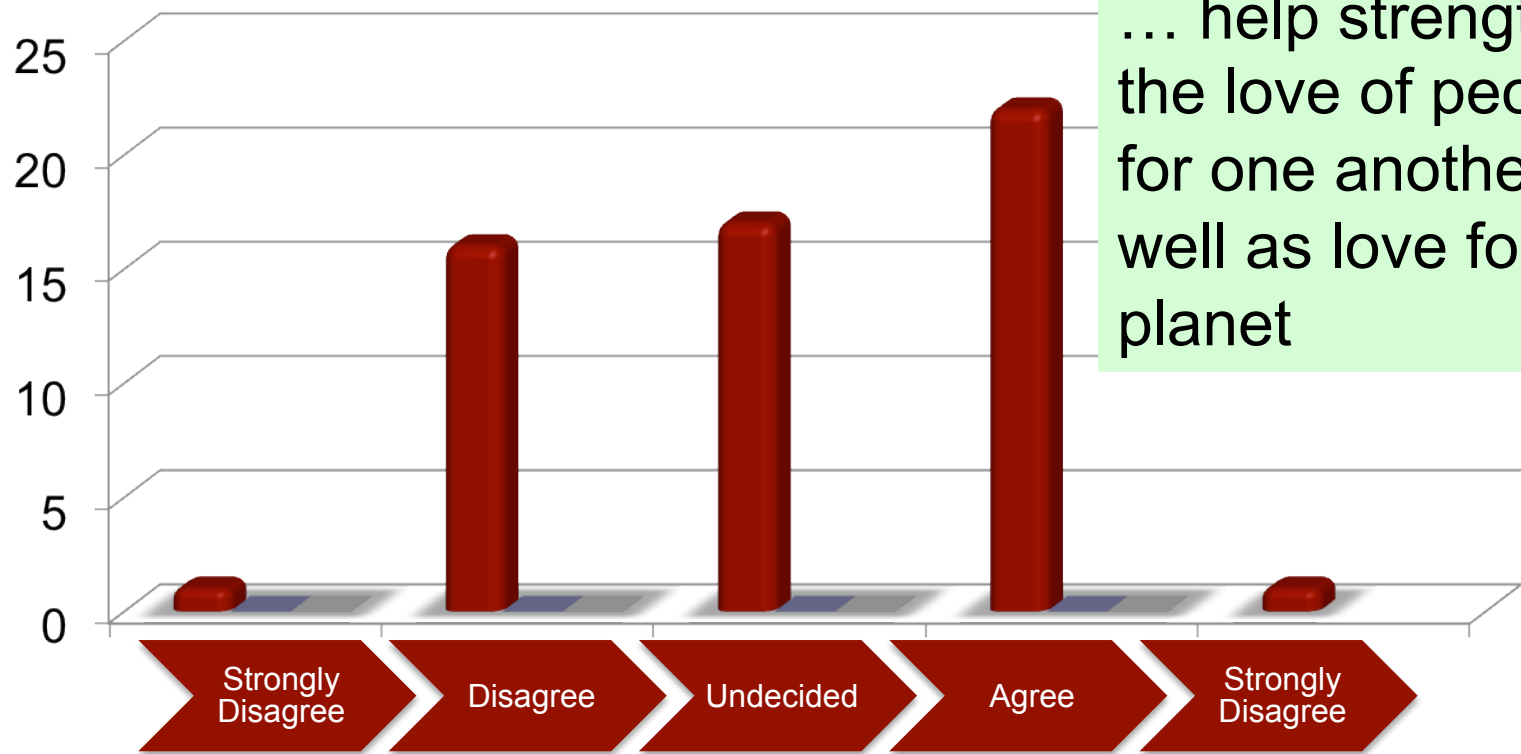
# Relieving poverty is not a matter for individuals, but governments and NGOs



I believe that a smile is one of the most powerful expressions of emotions that one can express.



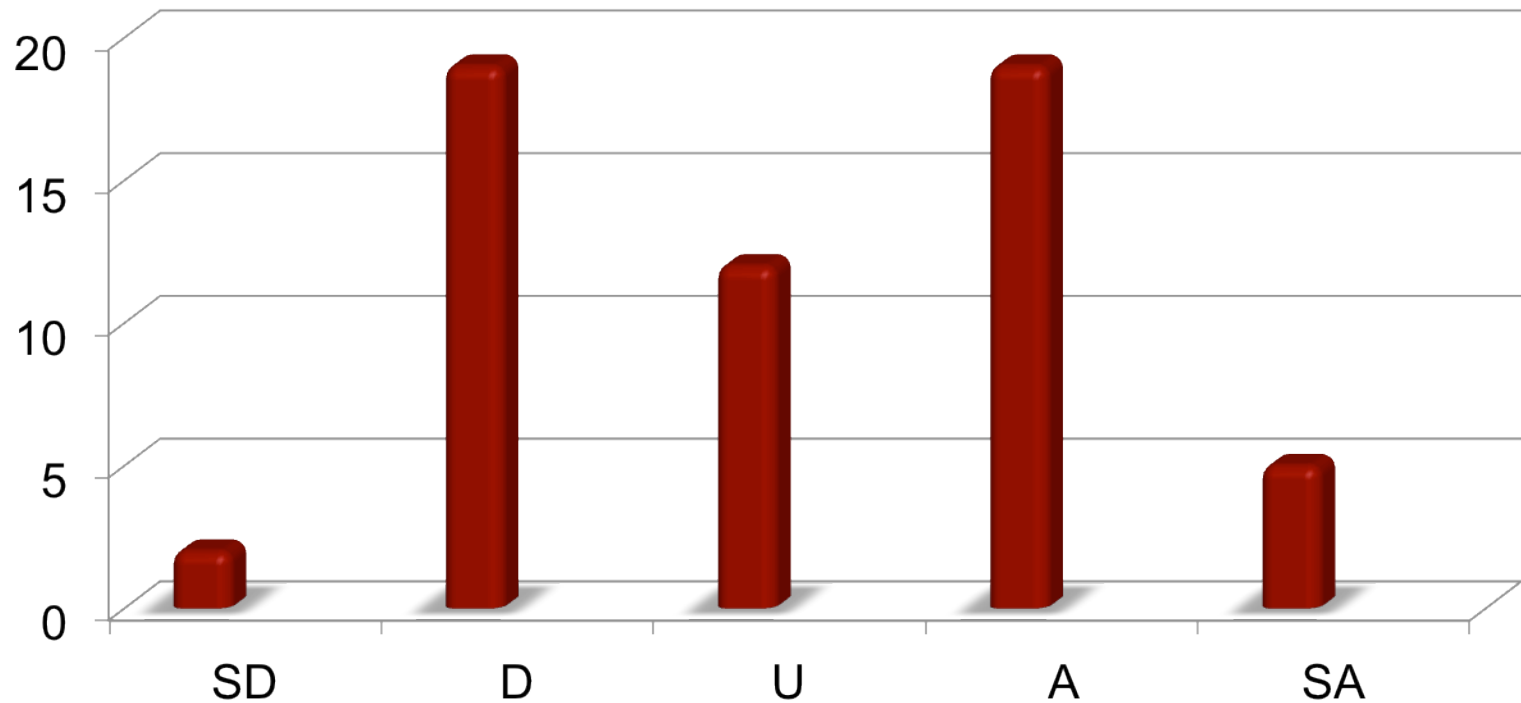
# The development of poorer nations should not affect living standards elsewhere



... help strengthen the love of people for one another as well as love for our planet

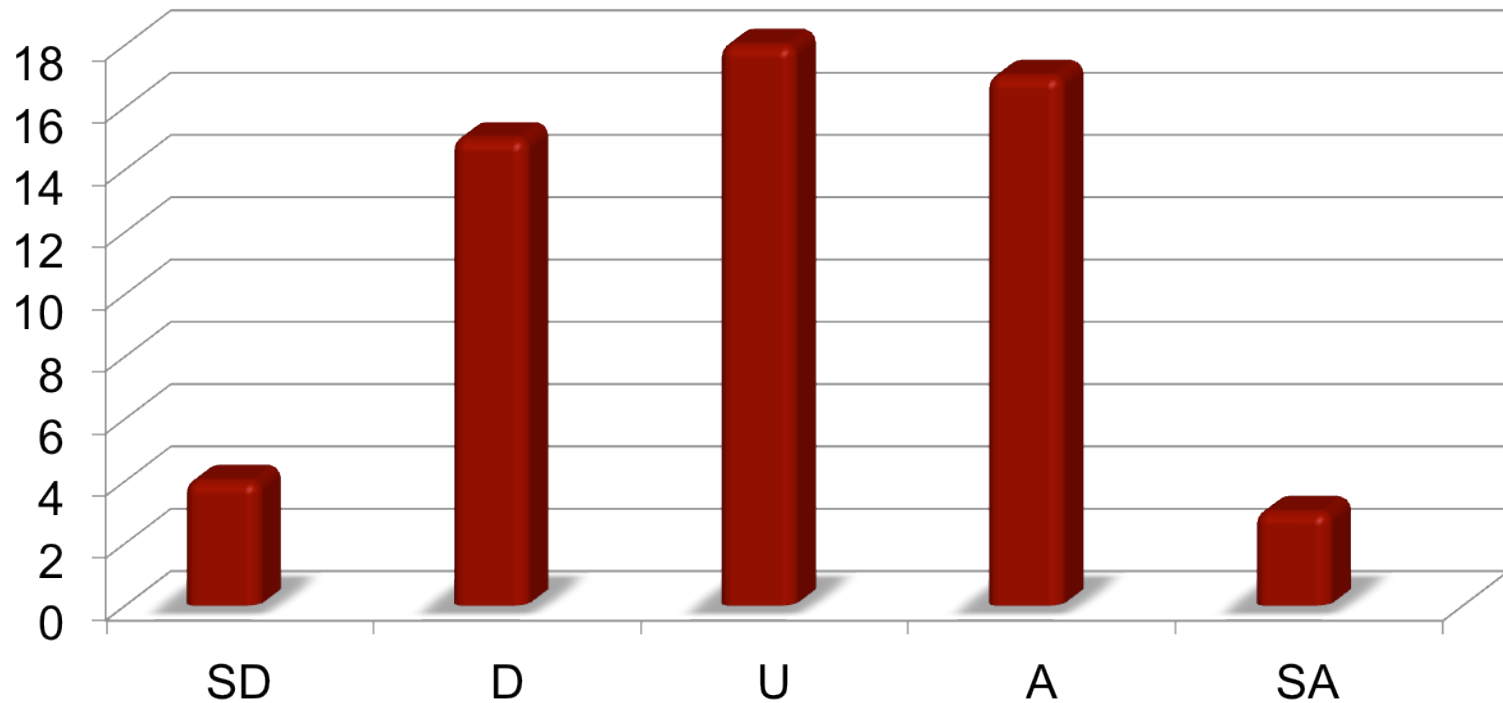


# The earth is like a spaceship with very limited resources

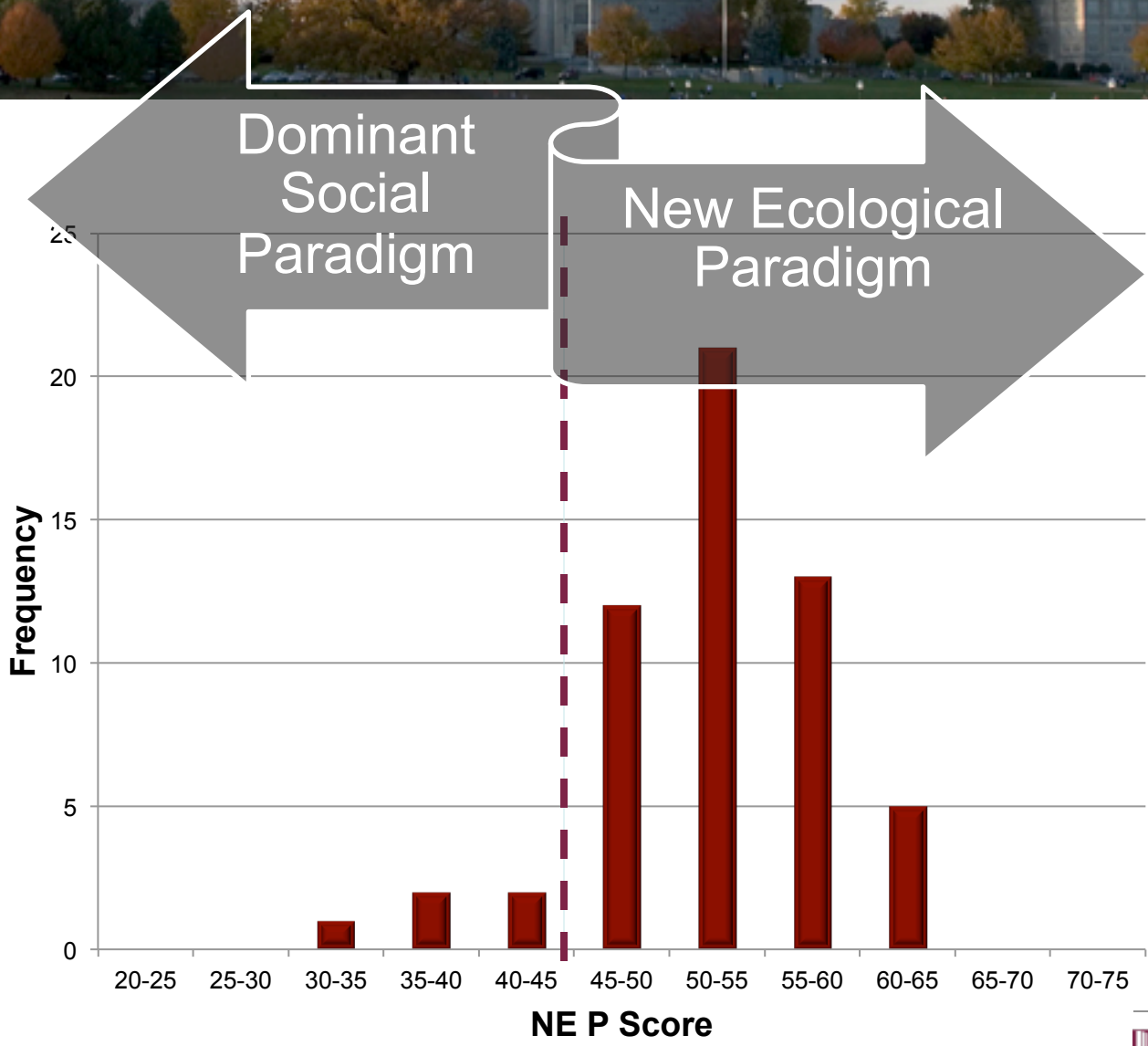
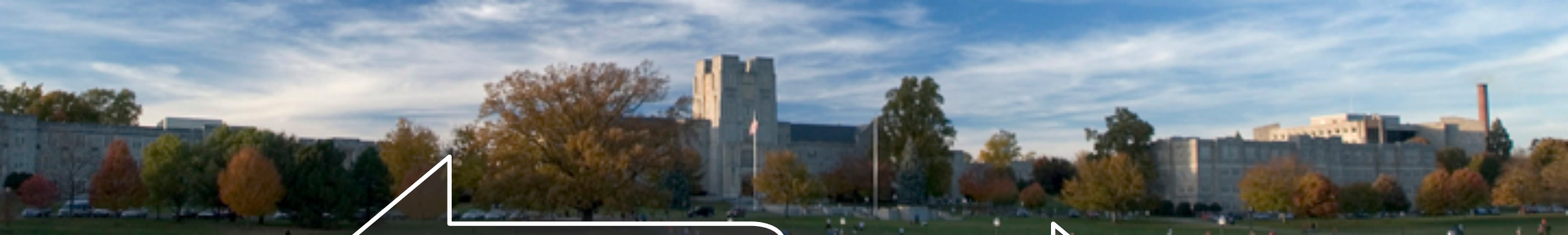


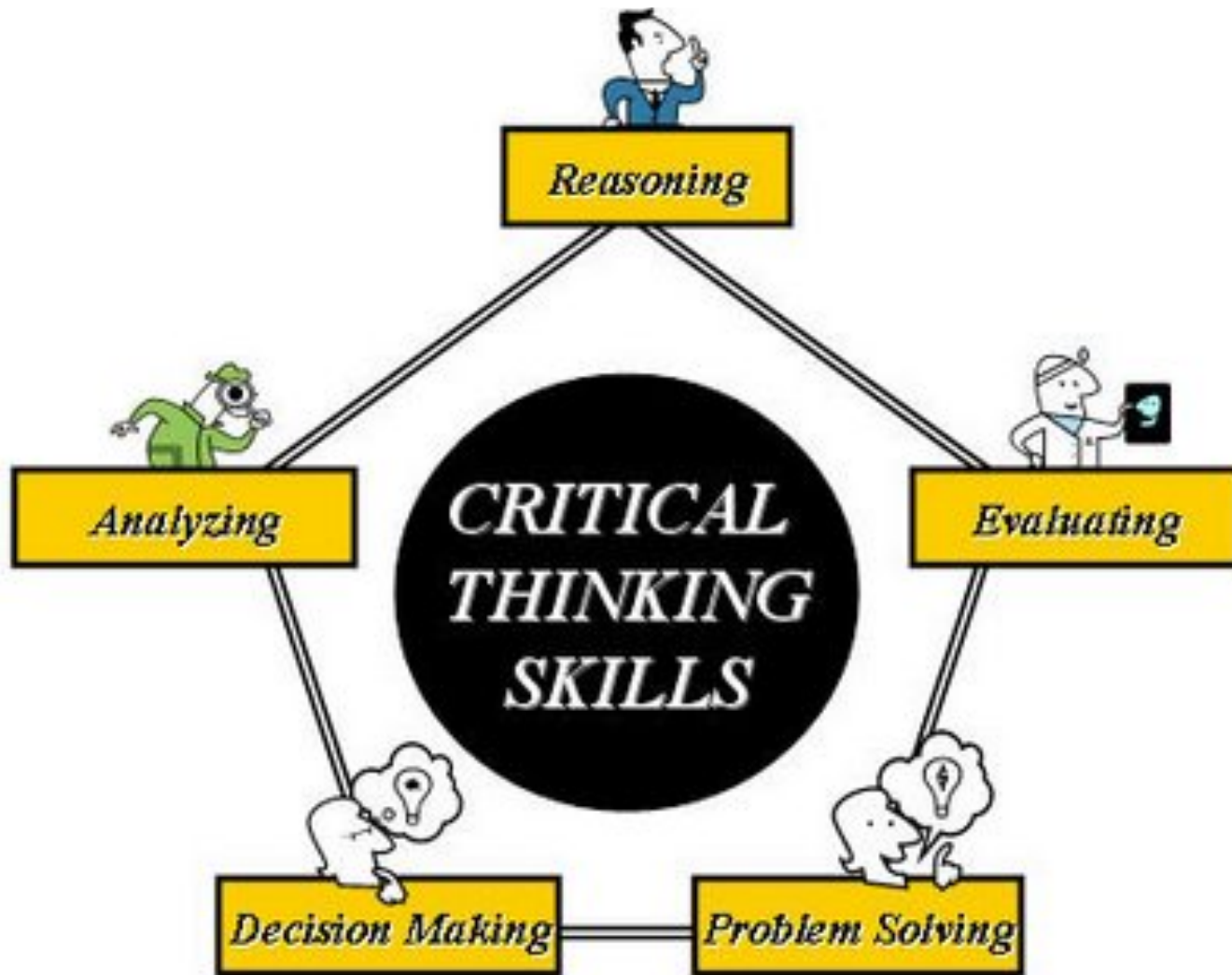


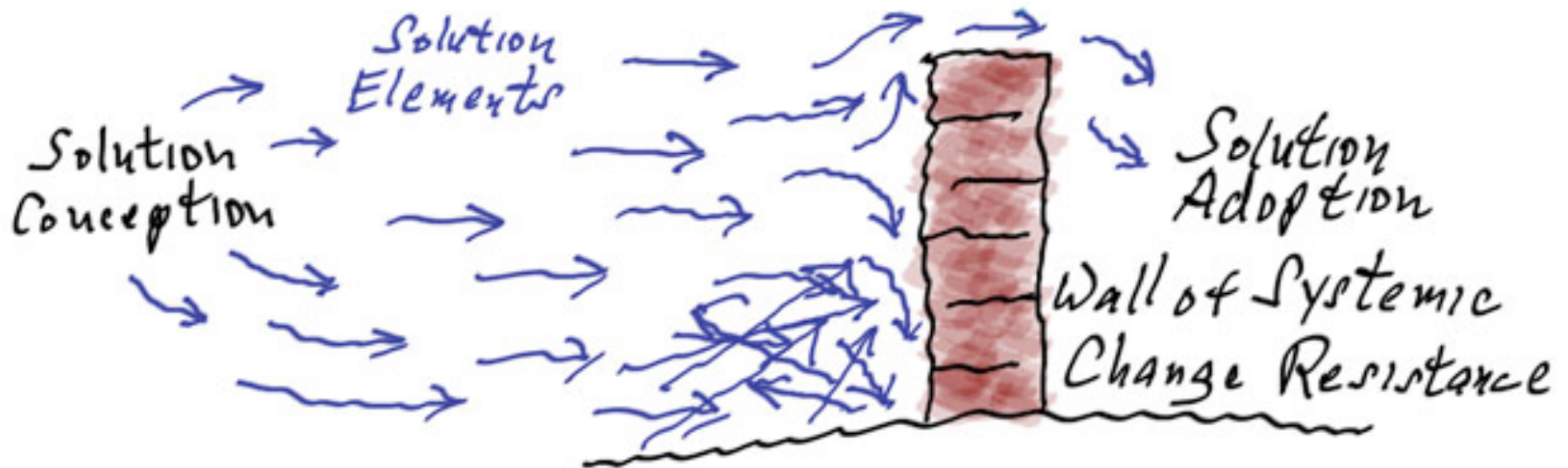
# Human ingenuity will ensure against making earth un-livable





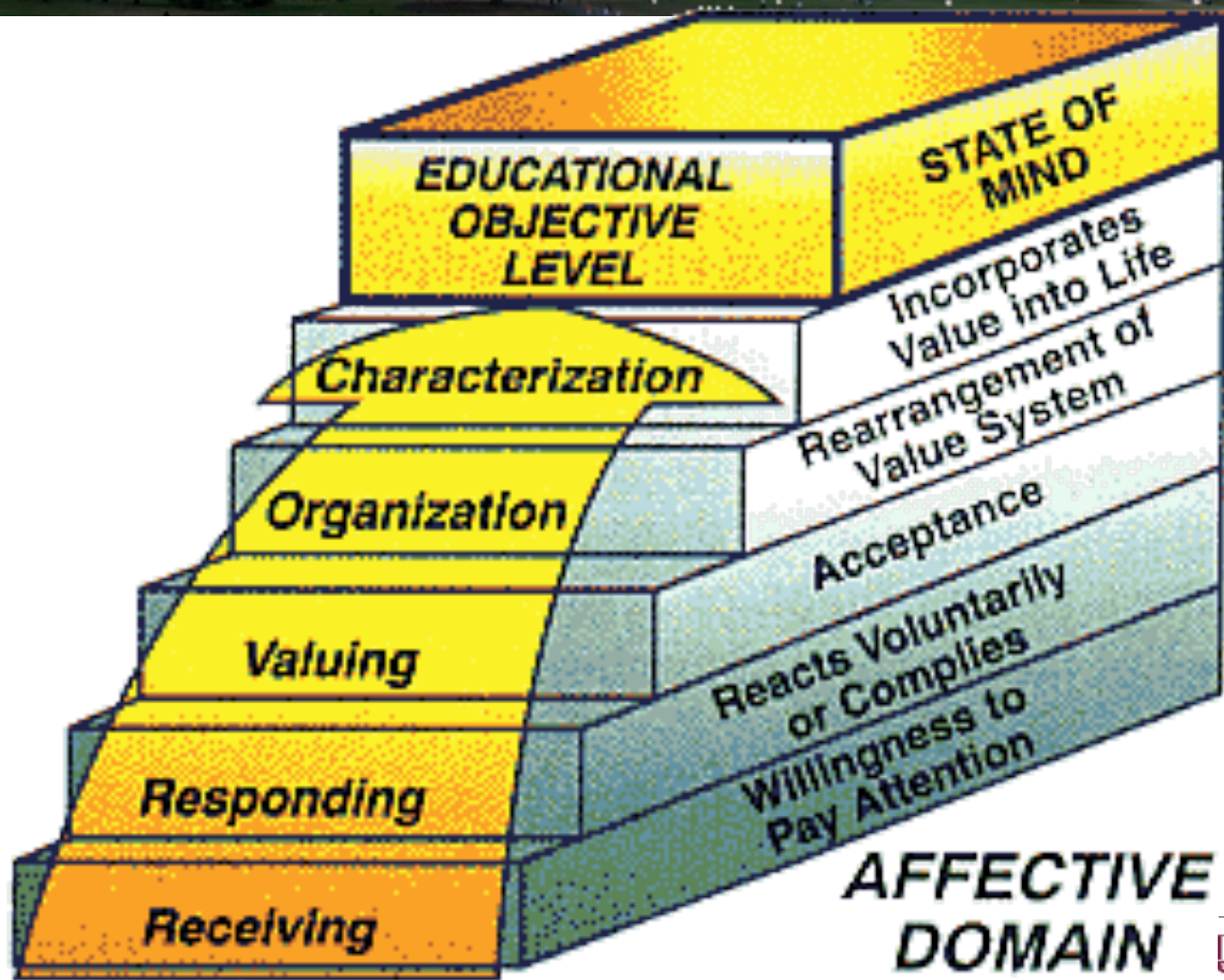






[www.thwink.org](http://www.thwink.org)









Practice  
**Civility**

"Love and compassion are necessities,  
not luxuries. Without them humanity  
cannot survive."

-Dalai Lama



“My heart is filled with passion to do  
good deeds and benefit other people. “



Prepare for a life of  
**Courageous  
Leadership**

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go  
instead where there is no path and leave  
a trail.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



“I believe in creating my own  
path.” A. C.





Commit to unwavering  
**Curiosity**

"The important thing is not to stop questioning."  
-Albert Einstein



“What if I could travel all over the world looking for answers of how to preserve biodiversity and spread sustainability?”



Pursue  
**Self-Understanding  
& Integrity**

"The unexamined life is not worth living."  
-Socrates



“Imagine a world where everyone treated those around them- and all around the world for that matter- equally and with respect rather than being judgmental...”





Embrace  
**Ut Prosim**  
as a way of life

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself  
in the service of others."

-Mahatma Gandhi



“... pursue my dream of serving in the military.”



## In other news..

- University of New England
- Sustainability courses
- AASHE STARS “silver” rating
- Green RFP

