

How to Facilitate a #YALILearns Session on Understanding Climate Change



Timeline: 2 hour event plan, with multiple lessons, engaging activities and opportunities for future events.

Introduce yourself (2 minutes)

- Introduce yourself as an interested YALI Network member who wants to start an important conversation about climate change in your community - remember to keep it short!

Explain the Structure of the Event (1 minute)

- Give participants an agenda to follow for the session. Walk them through what to expect, including interactive activities and outcomes outlined below. *Don't forget to explain all directions and activities fully and clearly before you begin.*

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

- Watch out - these can take a long time if you let everyone introduce themselves!
- **Suggested Activity: Introduce Yourself in 20 Words or Less**
 - Have participants choose a partner and each person introduces themselves in 20 words or less by addressing the following points:
 - Include your name, where you are from, what are you passionate about, and what you are doing to solve a problem in your community.
 - Repeat this 3 or 5 times - ring a bell or ask people to switch partners at 1 minute. Remind attendees that introductions should be short and fast.
 - After several introductions around the room, attendees should have a good idea of who their fellow participants are, even if they have not been introduced to everyone.

Group Activity: Brainstorm the causes and signs of climate change (10 minutes)

Goal: challenge a group to name 10 unique causes / signs

- Split participants into groups of 3-5 (as appropriate for event size)
- Give 5 minutes to brainstorm 10 causes or signs of climate change
- Have one person from each group present their list to the whole group

Brief group discussion to summarize activity:

- Did most groups come up with the same 10 items?
- What were the most unique ideas that were presented?

Watch Lesson 1: *The Basics: The Science of Climate Change* (5 minutes)

Find the lesson at yali.state.gov/courses/climate

Group Discussion: Use Online Course Discussion Guide Question #2 (15 minutes)

Compare the causes and signs brainstormed before watching the video to those explained in the video when answering the questions below as a group:

- Because climate change is measured over years as opposed to days and weeks, it is often difficult for humans to see how their daily activities contribute to a dangerous warming of the planet. What are some of the signs you see that tell you that climate change is occurring?
- What historic changes to your habitat have been identified that can be linked to climate change?

Watch Lesson 2: *The Impacts: How Climate Change Affects Africa* (5 minutes)

Group Activity (20 minutes)

Awareness Skit: Give pairs or small groups 5 minutes to plan a skit, then perform each for the whole group. Encourage humor and fun!

- Have group members play the roles of a “community member” and YALI Network climate change advocate to convince or inform that “community member” about climate change. Are there community leaders or specific groups or organizations that need this information? Pick a specific issue that they need to know about and inform them of the effects and need for behavior change in a 2 minute skit. (Maximum 5 groups)
- **After the skits are completed** ask the attendees whether or not they were “convinced”!

Group Discussion: Use Online Course Discussion Guide Question #1 (10 minutes)

Discuss the video and skits in context of the questions below:

- Are people in your community aware of climate change?
- How do people in your community discuss climate change?
- What information and in what form would resonate the most in convincing your community that climate change is a real threat to human existence?

Break, if needed (5 minutes)

Watch Lesson 3: *The Solutions: Taking Action to Reduce Climate Change* (6 minutes)

Group Activity: Action/Solution Brainstorm (5 minutes)

- Brainstorm community-level solutions to reduce climate change that can continue after the YALI Learns event.

Group Activity: Action Planning (20 minutes)

Break into pairs or small groups to come up with an action plan for tackling one cause or sign of climate change in your community. Building awareness and hosting additional #YALIGoesGreen events could also be a good “action plan.” Encourage participants to work together and hold each other accountable for carrying out that plan.

Action plans should include:

- **Target audience: who should be aware of this issue?**
 - Example: school children, rural agriculture/farmers, local leaders or government officials
- **Behavior change: what do you want this target audience to do?**
 - Example: Using reusable bags instead of plastic, making local leaders aware of causes
- **Messaging: how do you approach them and what do you say or do?**
 - Example: Present facts or *Understanding Climate Change* videos, hold a community meeting, work on art projects in schools, create posters or pamphlets.

Wrap-up (5 minutes)

- If possible, encourage attendees to take the online course quiz available at yali.state.gov/courses/climate to earn a certificate.
- Encourage participants to sign up for the YALI Network, hold a follow-up #YALIGoesGreen session, and carry out their action plans together.

Important Note:

- Do research together or offer to look up answers to questions that you don't know the answers to - you don't have to be an expert on climate change, but you can establish yourself as a leader within the group. Your goal is to start a conversation and facilitate discussion and let the video provide expert information.