**Unit one: Ancient Civilizations Sequence 02: Read and consider**

**Think; pair; share**

***An expository essay about the challenges faced by modern civilization***

Throughout the history of mankind, civilizations have risen and fallen due to a variety of factors. For the most part, the collapse of a civilization wasn’t sudden, but a gradual decline brought on by multiple causes. The interconnectivity and globalization of our modern society doesn’t make it less likely for a civilization to collapse. So, what can cause such a collapse? Apparently, there are three main threats to our modern civilization that can lead to the destruction of mankind.

**To begin**, human life requires a very specific set of environmental circumstances to survive. It is obvious that our planet’s climate is changing rapidly. Whether you believe, climate change is not a natural part of the earth’s cycle, but it is man-made. We have already seen an increase in the number and severity of storms across the planet – some with devastating effects. The temperature is remarkably increasing. **Consequently,** the ice caps in the north and south poles are shrinking, the sea level is rising, rains have become irregular, hurricanes are more frequent, monsoons are more destructive, droughts have intensified/exaggerated. Some areas will become inhabitable as rising seas cause them to sink under the waves, or areas will become too hot or cold to live. **Therefore,** the shifting weather patterns will obviously put our crops at risk, creating the potential/ possibility for famine and starvation. **Besides,** Water pollution is a serious problem. The major source of water pollution is industrial waste and city sewage which is carried directly into rivers or dumped underground. **Additionally,** agricultural and industrial products add to the problem. Polluted water causes many serious diseases like cholera, diarrhea, tuberculosis and enteric infections with clearly could endanger the humanity existence. **Furthermore,** ever since the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world has feared the possibility of nuclear war. The concept of mutual mass destruction caused anxiety/concern and terrifying standoffs throughout the Cold War. **Though** the Cold War is over, the threat of nuclear war still looms/appears, as more countries now have the ability to create these powerful weapons. Nuclear war would obviously have a devastating impact on humanity. All nations know that to use a nuclear weapon means they will become the next target of a nuclear attack. **Yet,** the potential and the possibility for such a war still exist **because** of unstable governments possessing such weapons. The thought of climate change, nuclear war and diseases cause by pollution are all terrifying, and it cause us not to sleep better at night. **But** we cannot keep our heads in the sand and hope nothing will happen. By ignoring the potential threat of any of these three catastrophes, we are missing the opportunity to prevent /stop them. We can change the direction of climate change with smart environmental policies and behaviors. We can sign on an international agreement to diminish the potential for nuclear war. All it takes to accomplish all these things is the desire and the will.

**To conclude,** we have the power to ensure our civilization’s growth, flourishment and make it even better than how we found it. The advantage we have over past civilizations is the knowledge to prevent collapse. **But** first we **must** recognize the threat **so that** we can neutralize the risk. Without intervention, the world would be If not hell, then a place with a similar temperature. Indeed, urgent measures **should be** taken by governments to make human activities safer to our civilization

*Suggested by: Mm. Belouettar*