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3/14/2022

Dear Andy Hobbs,

There are countless reasons that humans depend on the ocean, yet it seems to be the thing we neglect the most. The oceans were key in the oxygenation of earth, allowing us to infer that life on earth would never have been possible without them. Climate change is having detrimental effects on coral reefs – a vital player in the ocean’s ecosystem – and without immediate action, that could cost us the world.

Being one of the most diverse ecosystems on earth, the survival of thousands of marine species depends on coral reefs alone. Current impacts we are seeing on coral reefs include mass coral bleaching, reducing calcification rates, rising infectious disease outbreaks, and more. The commonality between these issues, is climate change. These side effects are wiping out our corals at an alarming rate; in 2020, National Geographic estimated that in the Great Barrier Reef alone has lost more than half of its corals since 1995.

Katharine Hayhoe mentioned in a Ted Talk that 2/3 of people never talk about climate change (cited below). The one thing I ask of you, is talk about climate change. Whether you do it once a week or once a day, talking is the only way to force change. People tend to get caught up arguing about the science when we have known that our carbon emissions were causing a change in our climate for over 170 years. If these conversations are uncomfortable for you, that is a sign that you need to have more of them.

It is past time for a change, it is only a matter of us growing the courage to do so.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Ballard  
College Student Hoping For Change  
[REDACTED]

Ted Talk Citation:

Hayhoe, Katharine. “The Most Important Thing You Can Do to Fight Climate Change: Talk about It.” *Katharine Hayhoe: The Most Important Thing You Can Do to Fight Climate Change: Talk about It* | TED Talk, TED, Nov. 2018, [https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine\\_hayhoe\\_the\\_most\\_important\\_thing\\_you\\_can\\_do\\_to\\_fight\\_climate\\_change\\_talk\\_about\\_it?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine_hayhoe_the_most_important_thing_you_can_do_to_fight_climate_change_talk_about_it?language=en).