

Coral Endangerment Extra Credit Assignment

Introduction: Tropical coral reef systems are in trouble worldwide. Presently, close to 80% of all major coral reef systems are seriously stressed (coral bleaching), due to a combination of environmental factors, such as rising seawater temperatures and multiple human-related impacts. Most recent scientific evidence shows that human activities are a big part of the ongoing demise of coral reefs. Several years ago, a movie titled “**Chasing Coral**” focused on coral bleaching issue, along with other coral issues like overfishing. This video documentary presents a comprehensive set of well-documented evidence that showcases the serious issues that face coral reef systems today. The movie also touches on the mystery and importance of coral reefs. Opinions and interpretations are also given, based on the factual evidence presented. For the overview of this groundbreaking video go to this link: <https://www.chasingcoral.com/>

Assignment Directions: Your extra credit assignment is to 1) Watch the movie, “Chasing Coral” (streaming on Netflix), 2) Take notes about the movie; and 3) Write an essay (in outline format) that addresses the ten questions below. Your written response must have at least 1200-words, typed, spell and grammar checked, and be in an outline form for consideration of full credit. Your response will be graded based on thoughtful, reasoned opinions – supported by appropriate evidence – as well as your command of the facts and concepts concerning coral bleaching. A total of up to 10 points are possible for this extra credit assignment.

Chasing Coral Video Review Question Set:

1. Prior to seeing CHASING CORAL were you aware of the recent coral bleaching events?
2. What surprised you most while watching the film?
3. A portion of the film’s narrative involves the filmmaker and his crew’s attempt to overcome the technical challenges of documenting these coral bleaching events. Did you find this aspect of the film compelling? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever personally gone diving or snorkeling? If so, what was that experience like?
5. Beyond dispersing general information about the perils coral faces, what do you think the film was attempting to do?
6. Why do you think CHASING CORAL spent so much time with the Colorado coral nerd Zackery Rago?
7. What did you find most compelling about CHASING CORAL? The video footage? The scientific evidence? The character development?
8. What are some steps you can take to increase the chances for coral to survive for the foreseeable future?
9. How does this film compare to other climate change related documentaries you’ve seen?
10. In the beginning of CHASING CORAL it is stated that coral has a marketing problem. What did they mean by this?