

Statement of Intent:

Prompt 6 made me think about the environmental issues that small island nations face. I linked the water by the beach to rising sea levels and how vulnerable Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands are. Although these islands are tropical paradises the harsh reality is that they could be wiped out within a few months. This is why I decided to write a persuasive and informative piece of writing that is impactful and punchy.

Climate change, an ever-evolving issue of the modern age. Environmental impacts are at the forefront of many people's minds. Global warming shows no signs of slowing, only intensifying its grip on our planet. As awareness spreads, more people recognise the possible dangers of the increase in carbon emissions and rising sea levels. This could threaten our existence. Greenhouse gases play a crucial role in advancing climate change, heating the Earth's atmosphere by trapping heat. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) absorbs heat from the Earth's surface, raising overall temperatures. Rising sea levels are an issue felt most intensely by small Pacific Islands. The people of Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands live in a constant state of vigilance watching for new signs of danger, danger that threatens to erase small villages from the map. Climate change is on the verge of overshadowing other disasters and becoming the most severe global crisis. Ever. Renewable energy sources offer a solution for the worst effects of climate change. The industries involved in solar, hydro and wind energy continue to advance their technologies. It is now a necessity to rely on renewable energy.

The surge in greenhouse gas emissions is the primary cause. Temperatures are soaring, ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising. The deadliest consequences will be on human civilisation. This is no accident. One hundred percent of the blame lies in human activities. Burning coal, gas and oil allows carbon dioxide to roam free. Carbon dioxide triggers a chain reaction that culminates in rising sea levels. Thermal expansion provides the means for oceans to encroach upon our land. 90% of global excess heat is consumed by the ocean. The ocean is rising, swelling, and warming with the mass of melted ice. Greenland and Antarctica, home to 99% of ice sheets on Earth, are melting away at an exponential rate. Greenland alone has lost a

staggering five trillion metric tons of ice since 1992. This has directly contributed to sea levels rising, which, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have risen by 21-24cm. Continuing this trend, oceans are expected to have risen at least a metre by 2100. Some low-lying nations will become completely submerged. Consequences will be catastrophic.

Rising sea levels are a deadly threat. For many it means the loss of a beachfront property. For others it is the loss of a city, a lifetime, a community, or a family. Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands aren't just preparing, they are already experiencing the traumas of climate change. Residents witness the Great Pacific thieving from right under their feet. Kiribati, a collection of thirty two atolls and one raised island, grasps feebly onto its existence. Sitting three metres above sea level, it will be the first island swallowed by the unforgiving ocean. Increased frequency in village floods and saltwater intrusion ruins crops and forces entire communities to relocate. The situation is so dire, contingency plans are already in place. 5,500 acres of Fijian land has been bought by the Kiribati government as a safe haven for its people. Imagine purchasing land from another country because your own is sinking! Least responsible, yet most affected, Kiribati produces a microscopic amount of global carbon emissions compared to the industrial giants, China, the United States and India. Unfairly, countries like Kiribati fight a war they simply didn't start, against an enemy that simply won't stop, paying the highest price.

Reducing an ever-expanding mass is an impossible task without immediate global intervention. Transferring to renewable energy is the most effective way to stop the ocean devouring more positive futures. Solar power utilises the sun's endless energy. Wind turbines harness atmospheric movement. Hydropower takes advantage of the force of moving water. No carbon dioxide is spewed into the air with any of these alternatives. Coal, gas, and oil produce energy, but at the price of destruction. Mitigation alone will not save at-risk island nations. Immediate action is required. Sea blockades may delay the tides, but they cannot prevent the inevitable rise of the ocean. Restoring coral reefs, natural coast defenders, is a more permanent solution. The ocean will relentlessly attack coastal areas with no remorse. Small island nations cannot succeed alone. High emission wealthy countries must take responsibility and bolster efforts against the ocean. Without financial and

technological aid, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands will not survive this crisis.

The ocean is rising, as a result of human activities. Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands are on the frontlines, watching their futures wash away. They are facing irreversible changes: forced to adapt, relocate, or risk losing everything. The industrial giants must take responsibility. With urgent action to embrace eco-friendly energy sources, there is still hope. It is no longer a question of whether the seas will rise; it is a matter of whether we can rise above and overcome this challenge together.