



# The Story of More

Tenth Grade  
English Language Arts  
Florida

My students this year asked me if I have personally witnessed climate change, and I was very honest with them: Yes, I have. As a native Floridian, I personally have seen how real estate development has encroached upon the Everglades. I have seen sea-level rise first-hand in Miami Beach, with King tides flooding streets. I have also seen the increase of destructive hurricanes, including Hurricane Andrew, which I lived through when I was thirteen years old.

For the past five years, I have incorporated the book *The Story of More* by Hope Jahren with my English Language Arts students. I start by telling my students that although reading science-based texts can be boring or the technicality of the information can be difficult to understand, Hope Jahren is able to share the history of climate change in such a way that anyone reading the book can understand. She uses history and facts to paint a story of how we, as human beings, have arrived at this point, detailing small changes we each can make to make a difference when it comes to the climate crisis.

As a final project, I have had my students create presentation boards or short videos based on the different sections of Jahren's book: Life, Food, Energy, and Earth. I believe that to truly learn about a topic you should be able to talk about it with others and so I wanted to provide my students with ways to springboard into those kinds of conversations. The result was me giving them a two-part project. Part one: create a button. Part two: create a Public Service Announcement (PSA).

For the button, students could use an image, quote, fact, or a mix from the book for the creation of their button. This allowed the students to be creative, while at the same time allowing them to share their knowledge with students around the school if they were asked about the button. The second part of the project was for the students to create a one-minute PSA based on

facts they had learned from the book and share how people can make a difference when it comes to climate change. Most students created audio clips, [like this spoken word track](#). A few created short videos.

I was so pleased with the variety of ideas and creativity used in making their buttons and PSAs. This project gives me hope for the future of our planet and the consciousness of our youth that our planet is finite, and we can live with less and share more. The young people of our country do care about planet Earth and recognize that science is here to help us make better decisions to preserve what we have for our future.



*Example of student-made button*