



Climate Change Conundrums

Eleanor K. Sommer
NRLI Class XII
2012-2013

What Is Your Priority?

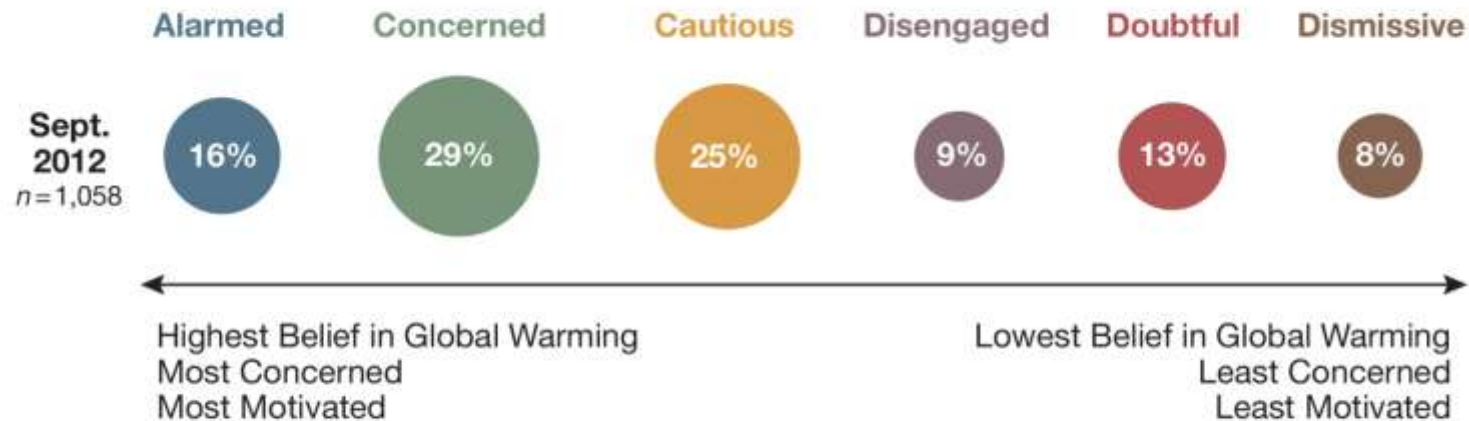
Goals

- ❖ Practice conflict resolution skills learned in NRLI classes
- ❖ Share process of recognizing how various perspectives help solve challenges
- ❖ Encourage discussion about climate change among undergraduate college students

Reasons

- ❖ To teach skills for understanding climate change perceptions
- ❖ To facilitate meaningful conversation of strategies for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change

Climate change and sea level rise are controversial issues in today's society.



Proportion represented by area

Source: Yale / George Mason University



People

18 undergraduate University of Florida students
enrolled in FOR 3202 (Society and Natural Resources)



Process

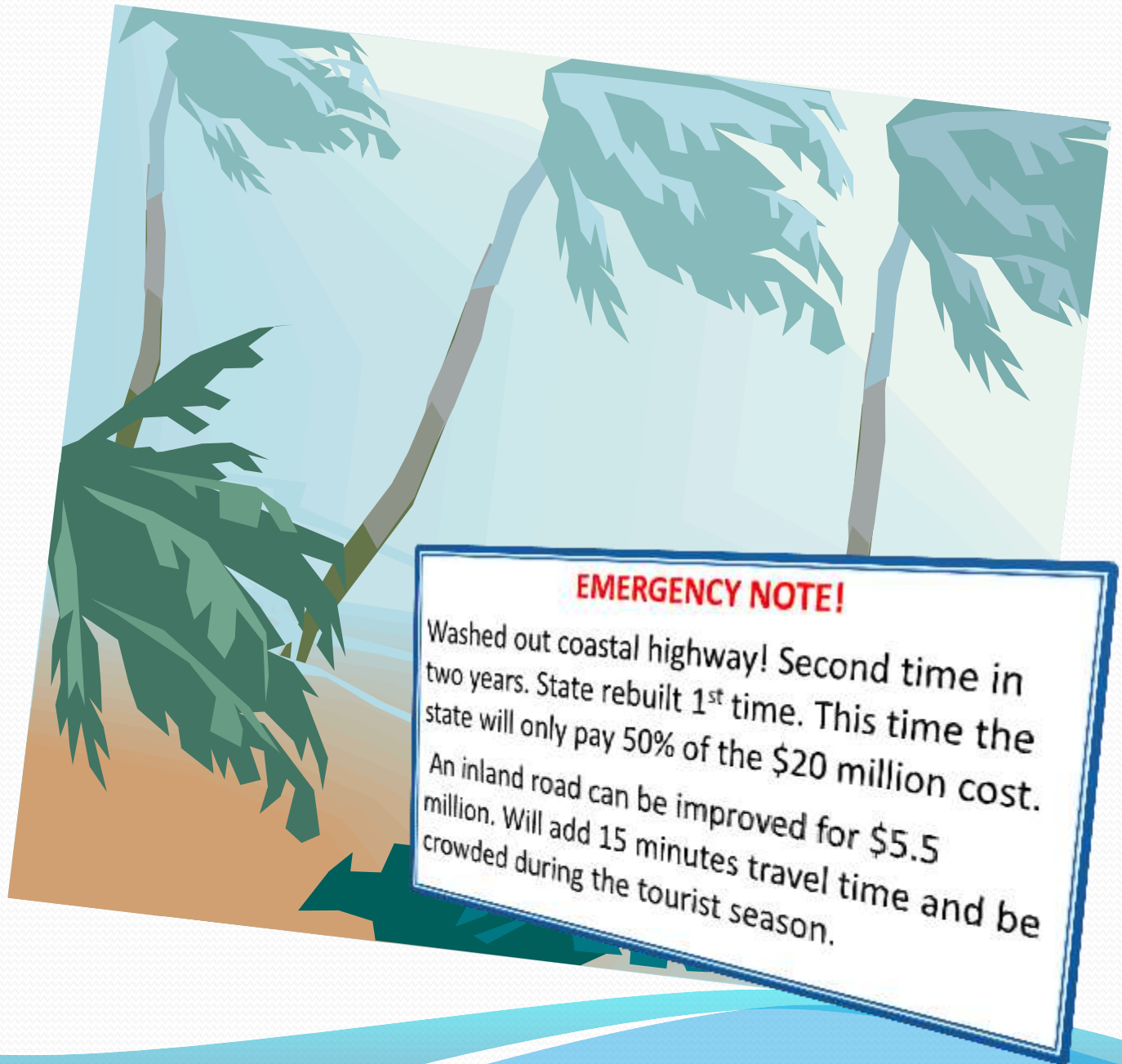
- ❖ A 50-minute session based on the NRLI “Lost in the Jungle” scenario.
- ❖ **“Climate Conundrums” required participants to spend \$20 million:**
 - ❖ Prepare community for impacts of climate change
 - ❖ Contribute to the state’s goal of reducing carbon emissions by 20% in 5 years
 - ❖ Maintain local services and infrastructure

A list of items with price tags was provided.

- Contribute to a light rail system
- Beach renourishment
- Replace leaking high school roof
- Replace all septic tanks with municipal sewer system
- Build dikes
- Provide all homes with LED lights
- Replace municipal well prone to salt water intrusion
- Solar panels for all roofs
- Nature and science educational center
- Build waste to energy plant for electricity
- Bike paths
- Re-engineer hospital to protect power supply/HVAC from sea level rise
- Reduce property taxes
- Purchase barrier island properties
- Build convention center

Process

- Small groups (2-3 students)
- Like categories
- Some students played roles
- Plot Twist Alert!



More Process

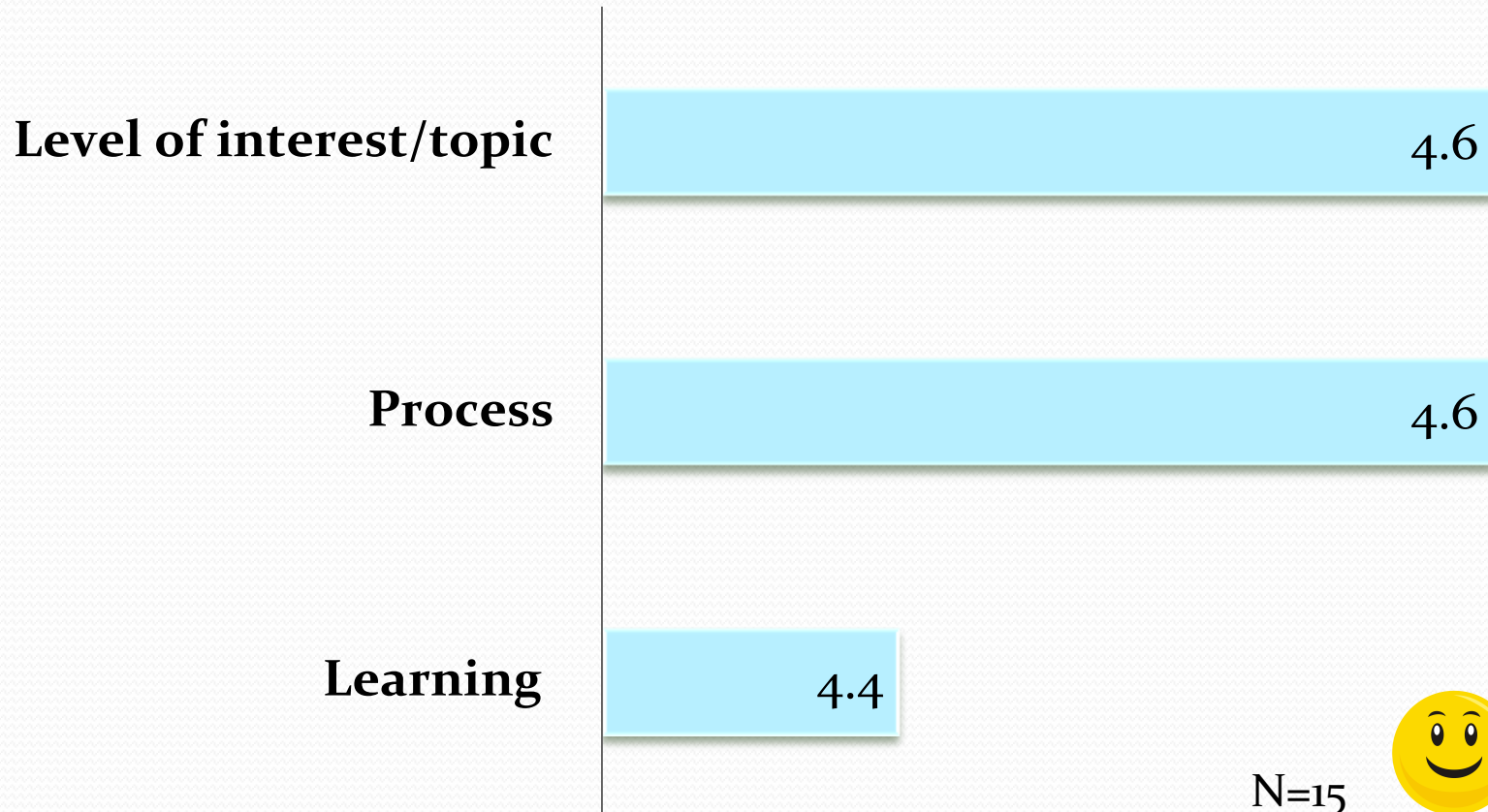
- ❖ 10 more minutes of small group discussion
- ❖ Re-assembled students (stayed in breakout groups) for 20 minutes
- ❖ Large group discussion focused on the following:
 - Character of each perspective
 - Priorities for each perspective (chalk board)
 - Commonalities
 - Potential areas of compromise
- ❖ 10 minutes of debrief
- ❖ Evaluation




Accomplishments

- ❖ Recognized challenge of reaching consensus
- ❖ Acknowledged benefits of playing a role
- ❖ Noted challenges of meeting different needs
- ❖ Recognized importance of listening to and incorporating competing perspectives
- ❖ Agreed that ideas would have been lost without all perspectives
- ❖ Realized potential for commonalities

Climate Conundrums Evaluation



N=15 
5 pt Likert Smiley-Face Scale



Before NRLLI, I sometimes felt like this when planning a discussion group . . .

. . . and now?

