

## Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

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### Summary:

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We are in crisis! And there is not just one crisis, there are a few of them and even more are in making. This text deals with the causes and possible solutions of recent major crises - ecological, energetic and food crises which are closely connected together. Though one might get impression that our world is drowning in every possible crisis which solving is impossible, contrary is the case. Only diligence, cooperation, fellowship and emphasis on education, research and new technologies is the straw we should catch at in order to clear all present and future crisis.

### Essay:

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CRISIS! CRISIS! CRISIS!

We are in crisis! No point denying it! It is popping up from everywhere, everybody is keen to discuss it, noone is safe. However, there is not just one crisis, there are a few of them and even more are in making. At present, the leader crisis is the financial one. But before people were losing their job the world of crisis had another superstar – let's call it *ecology*.

This crisis has been living with us for many decades. Everybody has been contributing to this "co-existence" – our life standard comes along with environmental. Although developed countries have been recently bending over backwards to place many infringements to mankind activities influencing the environment, there are many other countries that cannot afford this but still have a moral right to live to the standard. Then we have...the global warming and the highlight of the ecology – carbon dioxide and mankind again. Or not? Opinions on this subject vary which mainly depends on the source of fundings. One is clear (even our Mr. President cannot deny it): average year temperature rises. Whether this is due to our activities or rather a part of natural climate changes remains unsolved. Nevertheless, the mankind decided to act responsibly for a change and declare a preventive war to carbon dioxide, the main suspect in the greenhouse effect case.

Only...how are we supposed to get rid of gas which daily production (means of traffic, heating plants, power stations, industrial factories as well as live beings and volcanic and tectonic activities) counts in million of tons? We can pump it down to ocean bottom or into underground cracks, crevices and caverns – these are immensely expensive solutions.

Much useful would obviously be new, environmentally friendly production and transport technologies with less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. And we do need these, no matter CO<sub>2</sub>. We have yet another crisis that comes hand in hand with the ecology – energetic crisis!

The truth is that over past two centuries we have exhausted almost the whole mineral resources that had been generating for billions of years. What does that mean? They are not likely to renew themselves (that is why we call them irreplaceable)! The thing is a man needs energy! More and more! Fossil resources are getting thinner, e.g. coal is practically done. Petroleum still lives on quite well but its resources are usually found in politically unstable regions which creates a climate of civilization encounters, terrorism and so safety crisis.

Then there is the natural gas. Unfortunately, it will run dry in time too and we are going to freeze the same as part of Europe in last few weeks during so-called Russia-Ukraine gas crisis (again). Meanwhile, it is unbearable for Europe to be dependent on Russia. What are we going to use instead of these? Nuclear energy not regarding (problems with radioactive waste), there are "only" renewable resources left - each has its advantages and disadvantages.

The Sun energy can be used by solar collectors (for heating) or photovoltaic cells (electricity production). Such resources can be used in warm and sunny areas (apparently these areas are about to extend due to global warming). On the other hand, take for example Norway during a polar night. They are more likely to use water energy from their many torrents. Water power stations can work also on seas while using the energy of high and low tides, sea torrents or just sea waves. These will of course come handy in coastal countries (mind you, sea level rises so land-lock countries will stand a chance in time).

Then we can use wind energy. Even now we can see a big fan on every windy hill. The biggest disadvantage of this is that we cannot secure continual operation. And when electricity is created it must be consumed – it is hard to store. Therefore the hydrogen fuel cell and so called hydrogen management seems to be very promising. Excess energy can be employed for the electrolytical production of hydrogen from water. This hydrogen can in case of elevated energy take-off be used for electricity production by means of hydrogen fuel cell.

To complete the list of alternatives we should mention the biomass. Praiseful as it may be to use biological waste as bio-fuel and bio-gas, it is also a bit controversial. We have plants for bio-fuels cultivated on arable lands, food costs are rising in addition to the famine affecting two thirds of world's population (and we smoothly get to yet another crisis, the food crisis)! What with the tropical rainforests eradication and cultivation of bio-fuel plants on such land, there is nothing ecological in there.

Whereas the financial, energetical or ecological crisis involves the whole world, mostly the "richer" West, it is the other way round with the food crisis. The West is flooded with food which curiously does not bring in the happiness as any starving African could believe. Indeed, it brings in civilization diseases, because food is being wasted and people overeat themselves. To transport excess food to the starving regions before it rots might be possible, but whome it would pay off? Would it even be right treat the poor men as beggars? NO. The West should help differently: discourage various dictatorial regimes that do not give a damn about folks but that are greatly profitable to army orders and low mineral costs of the West. Greater support of charity and educational programmes and missions would matter. The West should show the way out of poverty, teach them to work, use new technologies and become self-sufficient. Because the problems of people living on the other part of the world are partly our problems, too.

Though after reading this article you might get the impression that our world is drowning in every possible crisis which solving is impossible, contrary is the case. Only diligence, cooperation, fellowship and emphasis on education, research and new technologies is the straw we should catch at in order to clear all present and future crisis.