

## **Envisioning Action Workshop**

**By Jill Gatlin- A part of the Climate Change Arts and Culture Syllabus**

**Defining the Problem and the Stakeholders:** Identify a specific climate change problem (e.g., drought, sea level rise, climate refugees, the need for the U.S. to sign UN agreements, oil industry subsidies, species extinction). Brainstorm the following:

- Why is climate change a problem in this case? What's at stake? Who are the stakeholders? How might this issue affect different groups or communities or nations of people, or different species, in different ways?
- How are governments involved in these issues? Corporations and industries? NGOs? Consumers? Citizens? How are you involved in these issues?
- What steps might be taken (by the above entities) to begin resolving or abating this issue?

**Envisioning Action:** Outline a proposal for a written, artistic, community, educational, or activist project that responds to these problems and possibilities (you may use the same example you brainstormed in class last week, if you'd like). Feel free to dream big here! Include the following:

- What would you like to communicate to others about this issue?
- What is preventing action on this issue and/or what is preventing understanding of this issue? Think of practical as well as philosophical, ideological, political, and ethical barriers. Look back at Norgaard, Oreskes and Conway, Hoffman, Klein, Hoppner and Whitmarsh, Wolf, and other course texts, making several references.
- Considering these barriers and the ways others' views have been shaped, how might you communicate your message about this issue most effectively and begin to convince others of its validity? Or, how would you motivate others to get involved (think about the spectrum of allies)? As relevant to your ideas, consider linguistic, visual, and aural strategies (argumentation; rhetorical, literary, artistic, musical devices) and different ways to engage interpersonally, pedagogically, and culturally.

**Reflection:** If undertaking a project like this isn't realistic for you, what kinds of climate change activism would you be likely to engage in? Least likely? What would motivate you or, conversely, prevent your involvement?