Analyzing the IPCC 2023 Report has been one of the most intellectually challenging, but also enriching and transformative experiences of my academic journey investigating economics. I engaged with a comprehensive and rigorous document that challenged me to think critically by synthesizing complex data and articulating its thoughts into a clear and structured manner. Through my original work of creating a simplified presentation of the IPCC 2023 Report, I gained both personal growth and professional skills; I was able to understand complex global issues and research, analyze, and conduct technical writing that was help my future work.

Personally, I developed a deeper appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of climate science. The IPCC Report allowed me to integrate data from environmental science, economics, and policy studies to reflect upon the interconnected systems that drive climate change and its solutions. Contending with this complexity bolstered my critical thinking and problem-solving skills, especially when I analyzed feedback loops like the melting of the Arctic ice and its implications for global temperatures. This experience allowed me to sharpen my ability to analyze the cause-and-effect relationships so I could apply logical reasoning to abstract scientific concepts.

Additionally, I was able to use time-management skills and persevere through this original work. Tackling an over 40-page report required careful planning and adaptability. Initially, I was going to create a research paper over climate change and its effects on public policy, however, after my interviews with Mr. Bruce McCarl and Mr. Wayne Gearey, I learned that analyzing the effects of climate change was almost a guessing game. Therefore, I learned about the IPCC and decided to synthesize the findings through that way. This process allowed me to focus and persist into attempting to understand an infamous climate change report to develop my final product.

Professionally, this project allowed me to enhance my research abilities. I am now better at evaluating scientific claims and can distinguish between primary data and scientific theories and predictions, understanding the enormous uncertainty ranges in climate predictions. I was also able to strengthen my ability to critically assess policy implications. By comparing the report’s recommendations with current climate actions, I revealed gaps that require real-world solutions. By this evaluative thinking, I was able to connect theoretical knowledge to practical outcomes to guide my research and policy analyses.

Developing a project for my original work has prepared me for critical analysis. I have learned to manage and organize complex ideas into clear frameworks and to apply feedback to refine or reconduct my work. Plus, the experience of synthesizing information allowed me to convert diverse information into a coherent and impactful analysis to further aid in my learning. Overall, this project has allowed me to develop analytical, research, and communication skills to produce a thoughtful product, demonstrating academic rigor and contributing discussions on critical global challenges like climate change. Analyzing the IPCC 2023 Report will provide me with an ethical understanding to economic decision-making, and my growth throughout the research process has allowed me to connect academic learning with real-world applications, to develop myself personally and to prepare me for professional success.