Analysis of the article "A Case Against Global Warming Skepticism"
By Richard Muller PhD

Before you begin reading – Write 4 words you think of when you hear the word "skeptical." Is being skeptical a positive or negative thing?

After you finishing the activity – How have your ideas about skepticism change?

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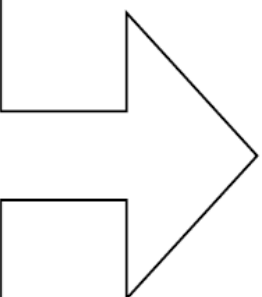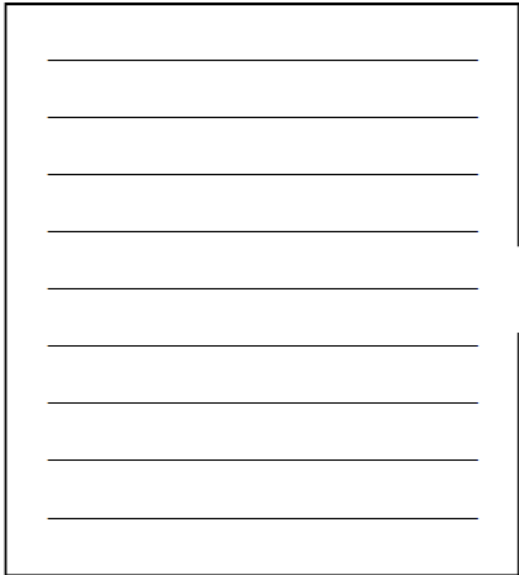
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REASON TO BE SKEPTICAL 1 - The temperature station quality is largely awful.

BEFORE Why does Muller agree?

AFTER How did Muller investigate the problem? What did he find?

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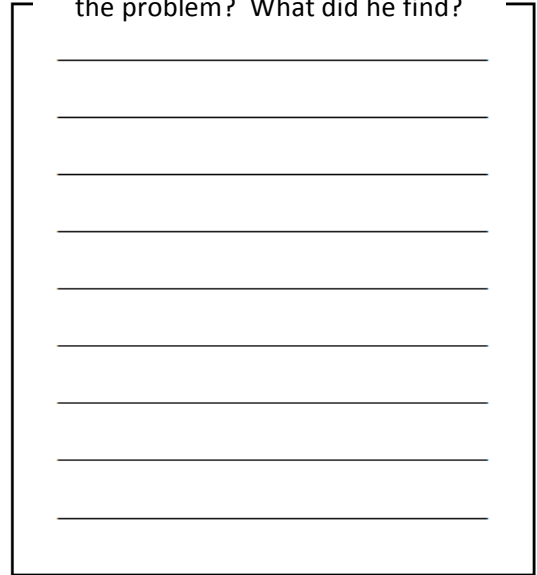
REASON TO BE SKEPTICAL 2 – Urban heating bias can result in higher temperature measurements. Bias is the intentional or unintentional misrepresentation of facts such that an incorect conclusion is drawn from a study. Muller believed that heat from cities might possibly make global averages higher. This is called "urban heating bias." Read and find out why (Box on the left) and what Muller did to find out if urban heating bias was a problem (Box on the right).
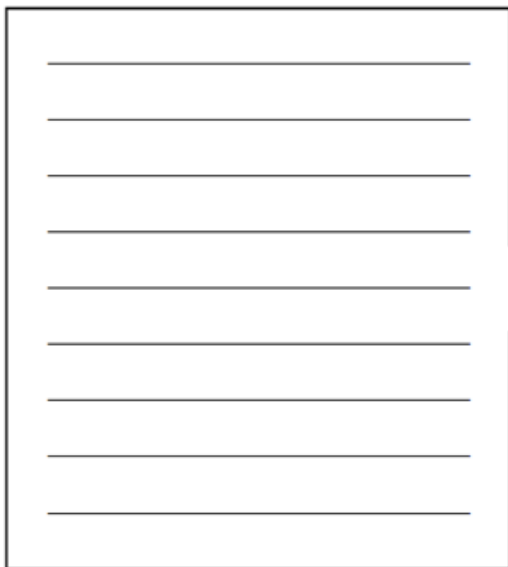
BEFORE Why does Muller agree?

AFTER How did Muller investigate the problem? What did he find?
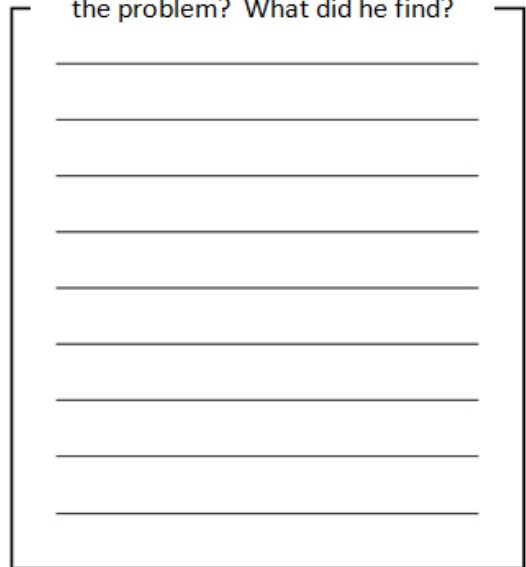
REASON TO BE SKEPTICAL 3 – Data selection bias could cause the results to be wrong.

This referes to which data (temperature readings) were chosen (selected) to be included in the global temperature averages and which were not. Was it done in a way that lead to accurate results or not? Choosing poorly can lead to making temperature changes look too big or too small. That's bias and we don't want it in science.

BEFORE Why does Muller agree?
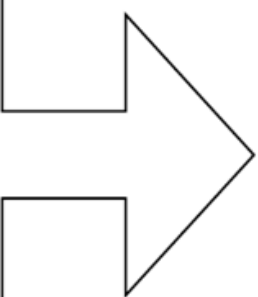
AFTER How did Muller investigate the problem? What did he find?

What did Dr. Muller conclude from this study?

What areas does Dr. Muller state he did NOT address in the study?