

Dana and Trish Comments on the Data Assignment due Sept. 23

- Overall, very thoughtful responses. Some deep thinking about the materials is evident! It's clear you also want to go deeper, and we will. ☺
- Be as quantitative as possible when describing trends in data. For examples, be specific when describing temperature trends. Consider adding dates of when temperature rose or declined as part of your description.
- Always specify which graph or figure you are describing or using to answer the question. In other words, cite your source.
- You gave good estimates for Question 9 on the September 20th handout about how fast the abrupt changes occurred. Think about how you would justify your estimate if someone disagreed with you.
- If you are ever confused about which questions were assigned, do not hesitate to ask Trish or myself.
- Your "what's missing" and "stretch questions" were quite good. In many cases, they anticipate what is coming next in our course. The most common and shared themes that emerged in your questions as a class:
 - Why do these abrupt changes occur?
 - Why have the last 10,000 years been so stable and warm?
 - What caused the ice ages?
 - Are there a critical or contagious few (Gladwell) in the climate system that promote tipping points and abrupt change?
 - What is the connection of Gladwell's concepts and laws to abrupt climate change?
 - How does global warming work and how much is natural vs. human influenced?
 - What is predicted, based on the latest research, to lie in our future?