

Please read this document carefully before you start! Your homework submission should be *at least* 250 words total, addressing the questions at the bottom of the page.

Scientist Spotlight: **Ayanna Elizabeth Johnson**



To help us prepare for understanding climate change, we are going to explore the work of Ayana Johnson. Ayana Johnson is a marine biologist, a conservationist, social activist, and leader for environmental justice. She is the founder of both The All We Can Save Project and of Urban Ocean Lab, a think tank for progressive science-based oceanic strategies and policy.

She has devoted her life to protecting our ocean ecosystems and species. In turn, she is protecting our coastal culture and communities, often poor and minority populations that are disproportionately affected by climate change and habitat destruction. "My love of nature and humanity drive my work. It's not some abstract interest in policy or science."

- 1) Watch this Ted Talk about the climate crisis with Dr. Ayana Johnson: [How to Find Joy in Climate Action | Ayana Elizabeth Johnson | TED \(youtube.com\)](#)
- 2) Learn more about Dr. Johnson's connection to Billie Eilish here: [Talking Trash with Billie Eilish. Nike.com](#)



Instructions for Written Assignment:

After reviewing the background and scientific work of Ayana Johnson, write a reflection on what you discovered. You might wish to address some of the following:

1. What was most interesting to you in reviewing these resources?
2. What did you learn from these resources about ocean conservation?
3. What new questions do you have after reviewing these resources?
4. What do these resources tell you about the types of people that do science?

After watching Dr. Johnson's TED talk, it led way to a lot of relevant conversations in this current day. Considering the election is coming up in less than a month, it is very important to start to talk about the harder topics like voting. Climate change is a topic high on the priority list in politics, so it is a very well planned assignment. When Dr. Johnson spoke about the aspects of the Venn diagram, it makes me feel like all of the baby steps are still steps that make a difference. One thing she kept noting was that, if there is a plan to help, there needs to be active implementation from the peoples instead of just talking about change.

The interview with Billie Eilish and Dr. Johnson resembled similar messages about taking small steps towards a more globally centered mindset of the people. One ideology that Billie hit on was that even if there is a strong feeling you have about a certain topic, to not shove that ideology down someone's throat because drilling the topic and ideas into someone will most likely make them just draw themselves away from you. Instead, you should just talk about it, but make sure it is in a respectful manner.

One of the questions I have about this topic, is how you properly approach a conversation about the importance of global warming and working towards a change with someone who hold enough power to make an actual change. Politicians are powerful people who hold enough power to make a change, but there is a difficulty personally because there is a need to be respectful, but when coming off respectful it is hard to remain standing your ground.

People who do science can be mindful about the environment, and also be an advocate to give a voice to those who don't have as much of an impact. It all starts with a plan, and a goal. As long as you have those two things, anything can be accomplished.