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Day 26: Greener

On March 31, 1948, in Washington D.C., Albert Arnold Gore, Jr. was born. He was the son of Pauline LaFon Gore, one of the first women to graduate from Vanderbilt Law School; and Albert Gore, Sr., a Democrat serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from Tennessee, who would later on serve as U.S. Senate (1953-1971) and was considered as a possible vice presidential nominee (1956 and 1960).



Gore's childhood was split in two, living most of his life in hotel rooms in Washington, D.C. as he attended school and returning back to the family farm in Carthage, Tennessee. Later, he would attend Harvard University and earn his degree with high honors in government in June 1969.

In 1988, Gore made a bid for the Democratic nomination for presidency. Although Gore lost to Michael Dukakis, he was chosen to be Bill Clinton's running mate, and together, they won the election of 1992 and re-election of 1996. During these times, Gore worked to cut back on government bureaucracy. During the election of 2000, Gore won the Democratic presidential nomination and would later face against Republican George W. Bush. Gore won the popular vote but eventually conceded to defeat to Bush after five weeks of legal arguments over the voting procedure in the presidential election.

On December, 2007, Gore won the Nobel Prize for his work on global warming. In his acceptance speech, he urged the world's largest carbon-emitters, such as China and America, to "make the boldest moves, or stand accountable before history for their failure to act." Gore shared the prize with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for sounding the alarm over global warming and spreading awareness on how to counteract it.

Since departing politics, Gore has become a successful businessman, author and public speaker. In 2005, Gore founded a liberal news channel called Current TV with Joel Hyatt. The mission of this channel was "to give voice to those who are not typically heard; to speak truth to power; to provide independent and diverse points of view; and to tell the stories that no one else

is telling." and this cable network eventually grew to reach more than 60 million households across America.

After establishing the news channel, Gore published his latest books, *The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change* (2013) and *Earth in the Balance: Forging a New Common Purpose* (2013). He saw years of work come to fruition in 2015 with the launch of the Deep Space Climate Observatory satellite, nicknamed DSCOVR, in 2015. DSCOVR has a special camera that "will monitor specific wavelengths that alert scientists to the presence of certain materials like ozone, aerosols, and volcanic ash," according to a statement on Gore's official website.

In 2016, Gore appeared at a TED conference in Vancouver, Canada. His talk was called "The Case of Optimism on Climate Change," where he pointed to the decreasing cost associated with renewable energy and the recent agreement reached at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference as reasons for a more positive outlook for the future.

I was drawn to Al Gore because I felt that was a very powerful and prominent figure leading the cause against climate change. After all, when one mentions the name "Al Gore," one cannot help but immediately think about his warnings of global warming and his calls for countries to cut back their carbon emissions. However, what really resonated with me is how Gore was able to use his influence and political clout for a good cause, instead of being bribed by major corporations to promote a certain viewpoint and ideology.

If I were to meet Al Gore, I would ask him:

1. What is the most pressing issue affecting the Earth right now?
2. How can we take steps to fight against climate change? What more can we do to reverse the damage we have wreaked?
3. How do I become a leader and advocate for the peers around me? How can I inspire them to take action against climate change?



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to info ▾

3:53 AM (0 minutes ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

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10/26/18

Dear Honorable Al Gore,

As a young individual who is interested in learning about ecology and environmentalism, I was super shocked to learn about the roles that humans play regarding how we impact the world around us. After reading your book, *An Inconvenient Truth*, I now see how everything ties together. Everything that we interact with, own, or consume, all require energy and resources and labor that is provided and packaged to us in a easy, consumable way that instantly gratifies our desires. This vicious process repeats itself over and over again, to no need, and I realize now that it is so important that we take steps to limit our impact and minimize our waste in this world. However, your actions inspire me and give me hope that there are ways for us to reverse climate change. I am nothing but deep respect and admiration for your dedication and efforts towards protecting the environment and fighting against climate change. With your boundless energy and passion, it was finally possible that DSCOVR came into fruition, allowing scientists to monitor the presence of certain particles in the air. I think that it is so admirable that you use your political power and influence to persuade and inform the general public on how all of our actions together can either save or destroy our planet. I can only hope that one day, I can be more like you.

If possible, may I ask you 3 burning questions I have?

1. What is the most pressing issue affecting the Earth right now?
2. How can we take steps to fight against climate change? What more can we do to reverse the damage we have wreaked?
3. How do I become a leader and advocate for the peers around me? How can I inspire them to take action against climate change?

Sincerely,
Danielle Chan