

If Americans really cared ...

Photo: Children's Defense Fund



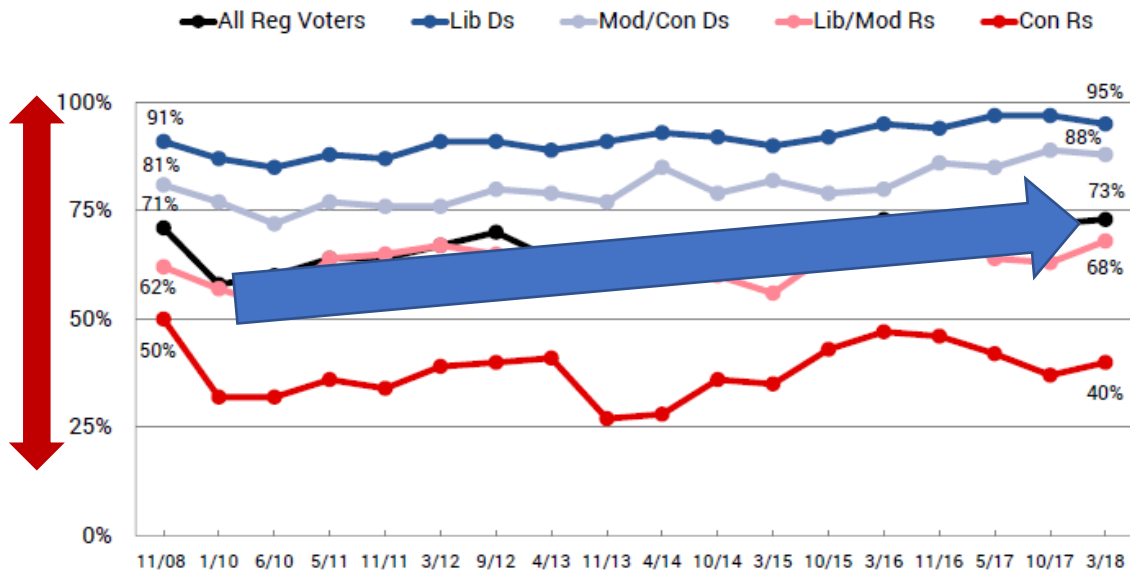
You really can change the world if you care enough.

(Marian Wright Edelman)

izquotes.com

They seem to get it's happening and why

Most Registered Voters Think Global Warming Is Happening

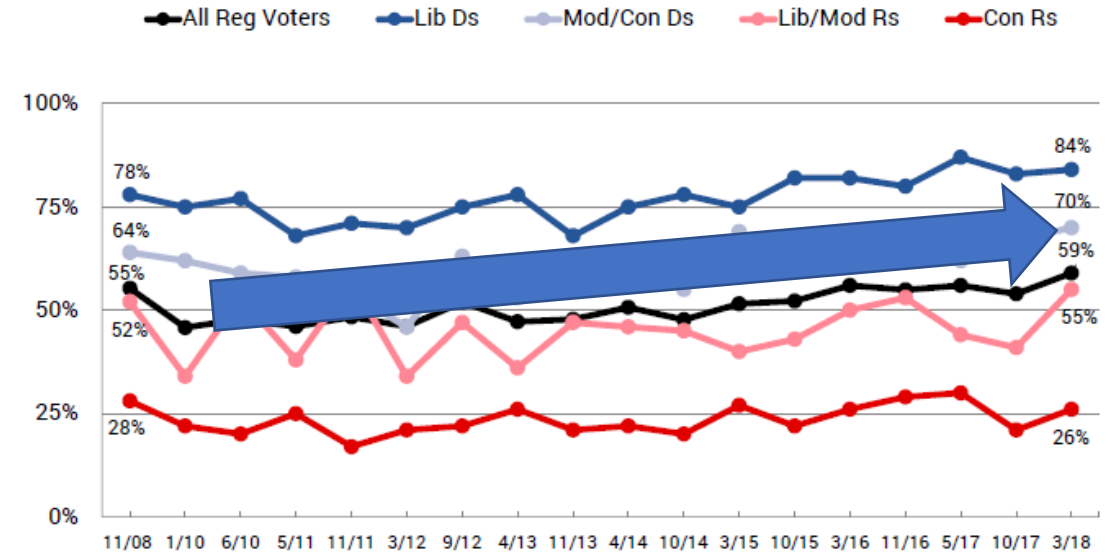


Do you think global warming is happening? [% responding "yes"]

March 2018. Base: Registered American Voters.



A Majority of Registered Voters Think Global Warming Is Caused Mostly By Human Activities



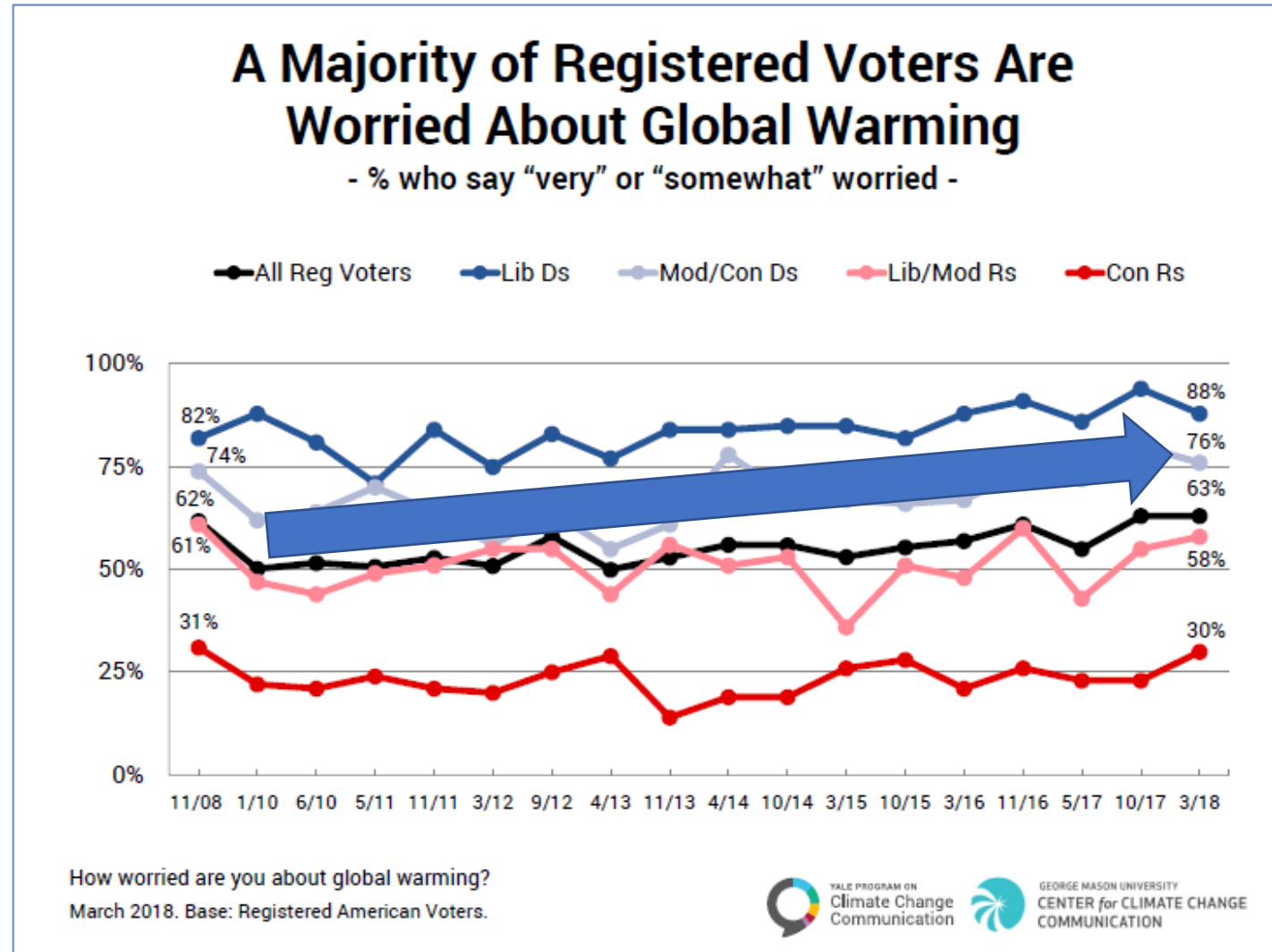
Assuming global warming is happening, do you think it is...? (a) caused mostly by human activities; (b) caused mostly by natural changes in the environment; (c) Other (please specify); (d) None of the above because global warming isn't happening. [% responding "caused mostly by human activities"]

March 2018. Base: Registered American Voters.



(Leiserowitz et al. 2018)

AND a lot of them worry about it...



(Leiserowitz et al. 2018)

So what is going on here?

Photo: <https://www.canadiancontractor.ca/confused-man/>



Photo (t>b): Twitter, Getty, Toby Talbot/AP



Possible
explanation #1

Most Liberal Democrats Say Global Warming Will Be a Very Important Issue When Deciding For Whom to Vote in the 2018 Congressional Election

Rank by "very important"	All Registered Voters (n = 1,067)	Liberal Democrats (n = 265)	Moderate/Conservative Democrats (n = 204)	Liberal/Moderate Republicans (n = 149)	Conservative Republicans (n = 276)
1	Healthcare	Healthcare	Healthcare	The economy	The economy
2	The economy	Gun policies	Education	Social Security	Terrorism
3	Social Security	Environmental protection	Social Security	Terrorism	Immigration reform
4	Gun policies	Global warming	The economy	Gun policies	Social Security
5	Education	Income gap	Gun policies	Healthcare	Gun policies
6	Terrorism	Education	Terrorism	Education	Federal budget deficit
7	Improving roads, etc.	Russian election interference	Russian election interference	Federal budget deficit	Healthcare
8	Environmental protection	Social Security	Environmental protection	Improving roads, etc.	Tax reform
9	Federal budget deficit	The economy	Improving roads, etc.	Tax reform	Abortion
10	Immigration reform	Developing clean energy	Income gap	Immigration reform	Education
11	Tax reform	Improving roads, etc.	Disaster relief	Environmental protection	Improving roads, etc.
12	Russian election interference	Race relations	Tax reform	Foreign policy	Foreign policy
13	Income gap	Disaster relief	Developing clean energy	Energy independence	Same-sex marriage
14	Developing clean energy	Federal budget deficit	Federal budget deficit	Opioid crisis	Energy independence
15	Global warming	Immigration reform	Race relations	Income gap	Criminal justice reform
16	Disaster relief	Criminal justice reform	Global warming	Criminal justice reform	Opioid crisis
17	Race relations	Same-sex marriage	Energy independence	Russian election interference	International trade
18	Criminal justice reform	Tax reform	Criminal justice reform	Developing clean energy	Russian election interference
19	Energy independence	Campaign finance reform	Immigration reform	Campaign finance reform	Campaign finance reform
20	Abortion	Foreign policy	Opioid crisis	International trade	War in Afghanistan
21	Foreign policy	Terrorism	Foreign policy	Disaster relief	Disaster relief
22	Opioid crisis	Wall Street reform	Abortion	Race relations	Environmental protection
23	Campaign finance reform	Abortion	Campaign finance reform	Global warming	Legalizing marijuana
24	Same-sex marriage	Energy independence	Wall Street reform	Abortion	Developing clean energy
25	International trade	Opioid crisis	Legalizing marijuana	War in Afghanistan	Race relations
26	Wall Street reform	Legalizing marijuana	War in Afghanistan	Wall Street reform	Wall Street reform
27	War in Afghanistan	International trade	International trade	Legalizing marijuana	Income gap
28	Legalizing marijuana	War in Afghanistan	Same-sex marriage	Same-sex marriage	Global warming

How important will the candidates' positions on the following issues be when you decide who you will vote for in the 2018 Congressional election?

March 2018. Base: Registered American Voters.

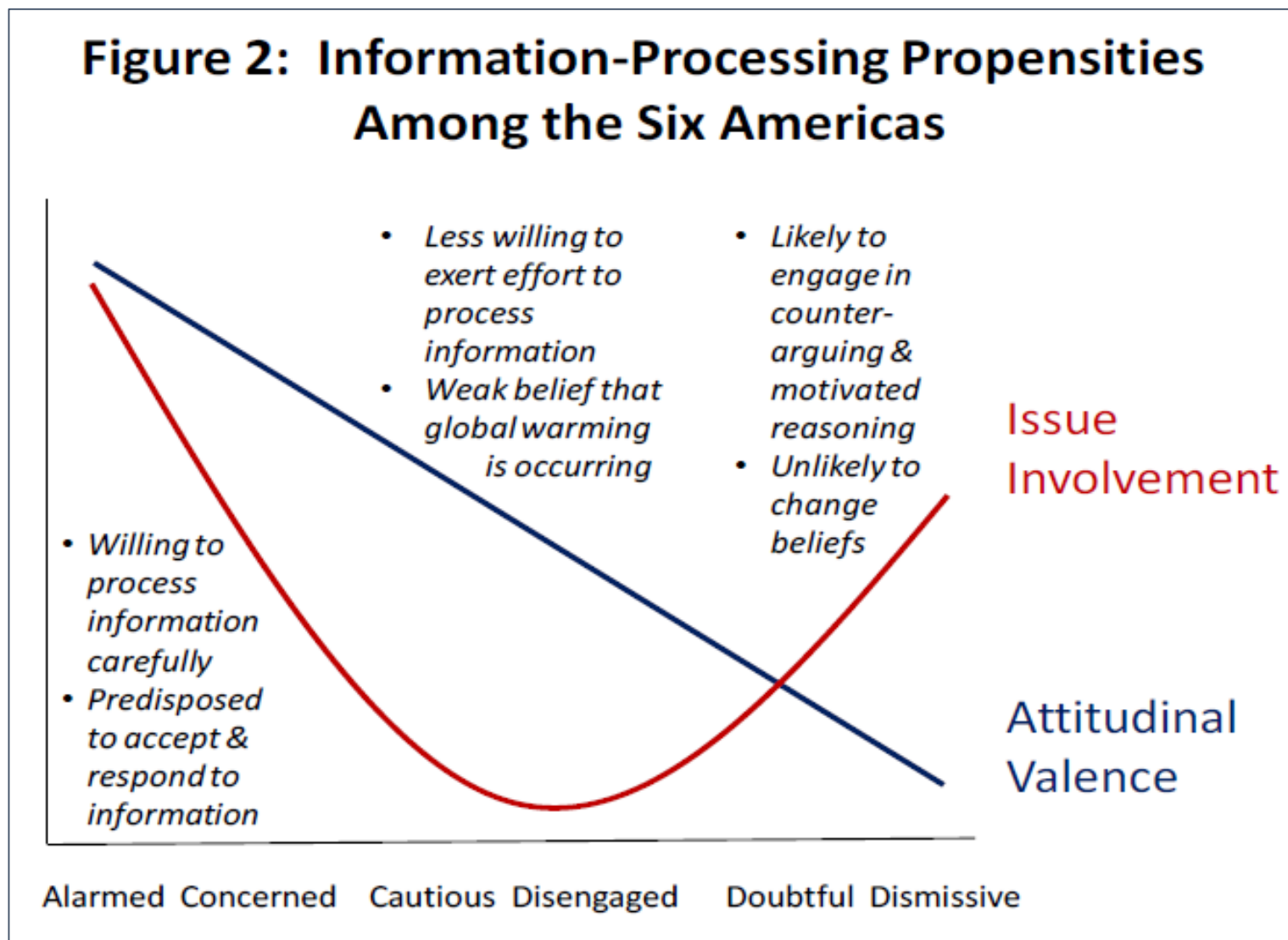


YALE PROGRAM ON
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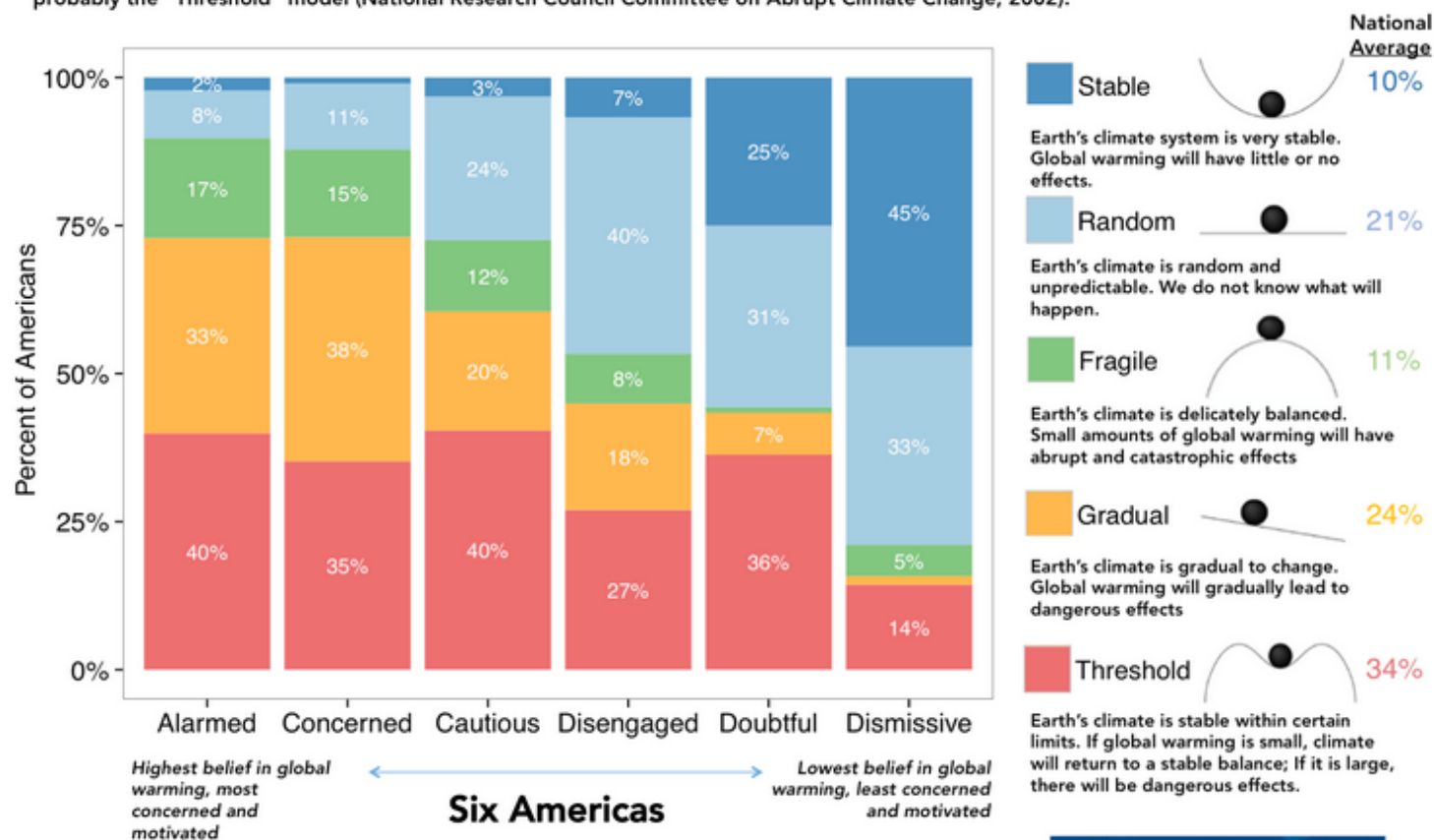
How much do they pay attention? And is it important enough to act on it?



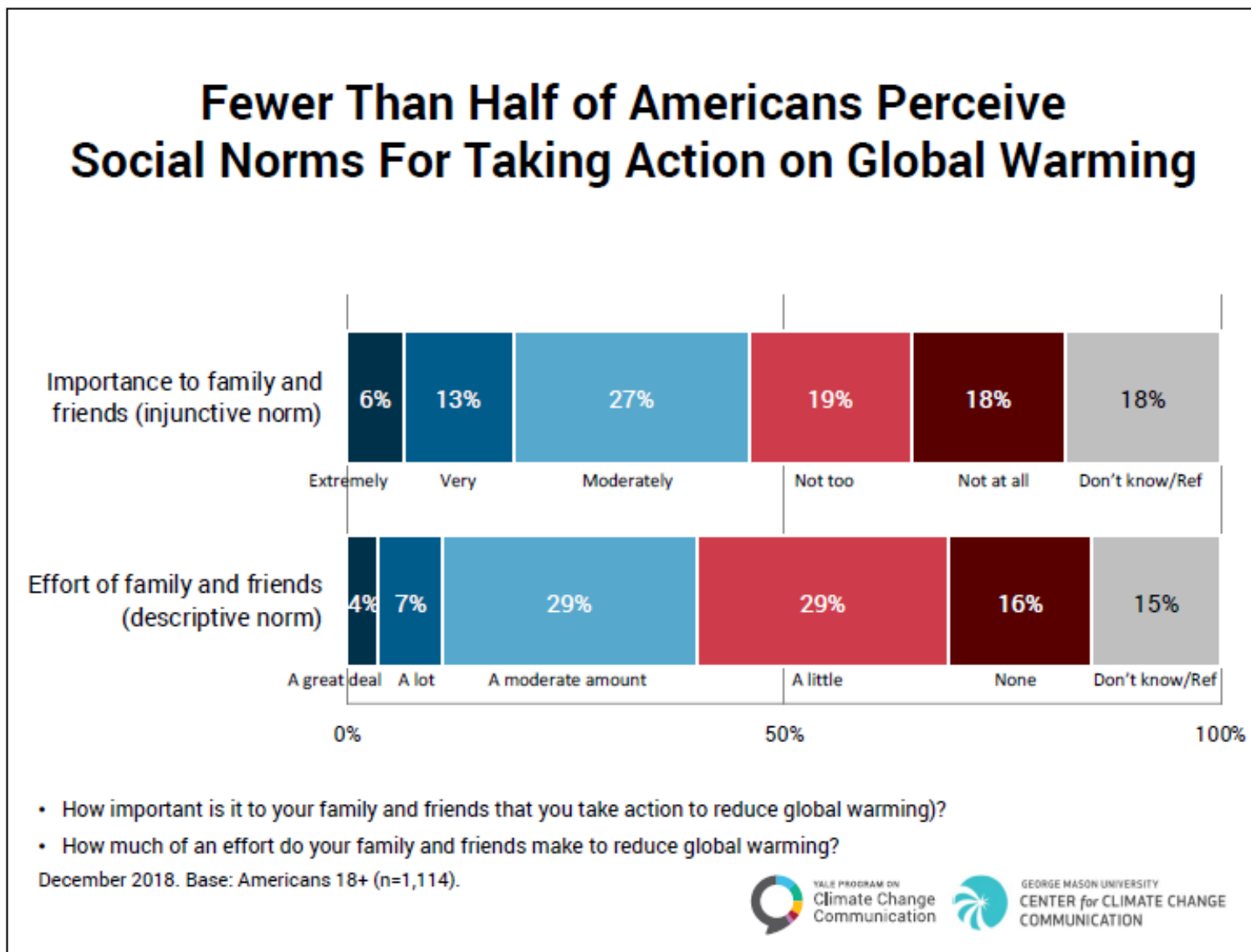
Very different underlying worldviews

Climate Stability As Understood by Global Warming's Six Americas

When asked "Which one of the five pictures best represents your understanding of how the climate system works?", the Six Americas respond very differently. Although each model may reflect a particular aspect of the climate system at a specific scale, the best overall model is probably the "Threshold" model (National Research Council Committee on Abrupt Climate Change, 2002).

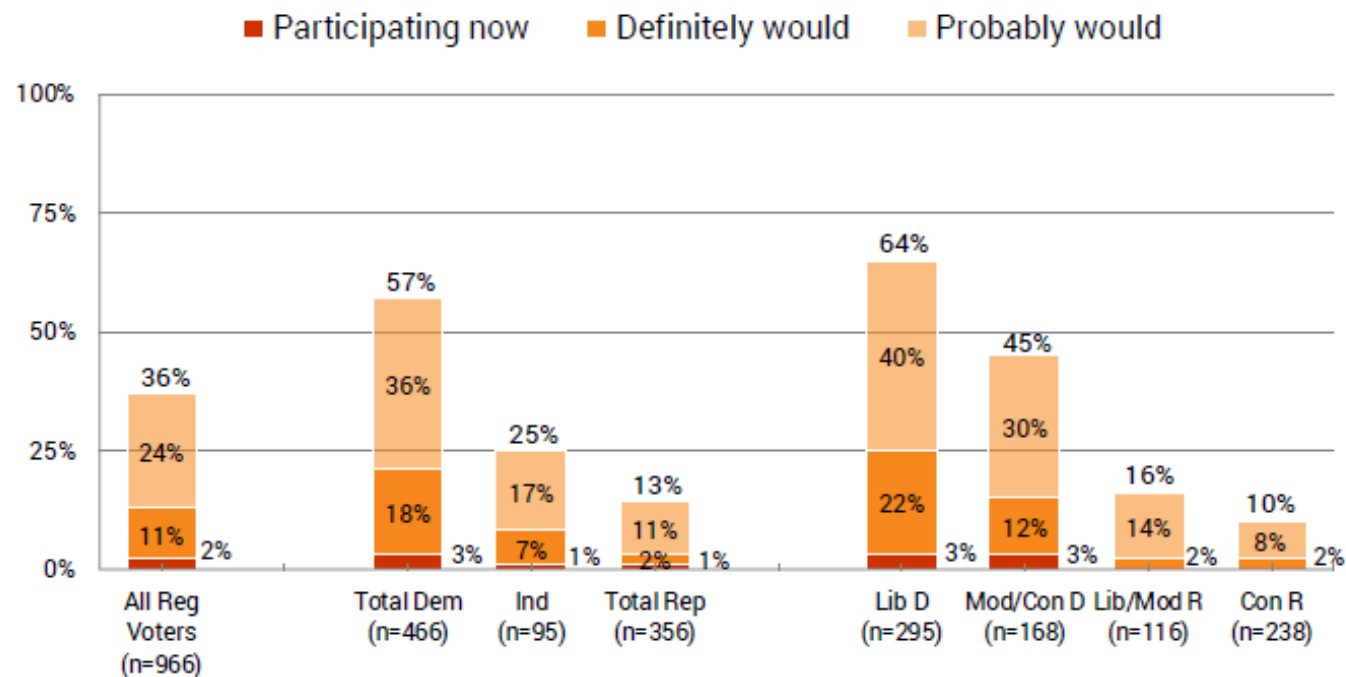


Why should I if others don't act?



Lack of political engagement

About One in Three Registered Voters Would Join, or Are Already Participating In, a Campaign to Convince Elected Officials to Take Action to Reduce Global Warming



How willing or unwilling would you be to join a campaign to convince elected officials to take action to reduce global warming?

December 2018. Base: Registered American Voters.



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Lack of a sense of political efficacy

Confidence among registered voters that they can influence decision-makers at various levels

	All Reg Voters	Democrats			Ind	Republicans		
		Total	Lib	Mod/ Con		Total	Lib/ Mod	Con
(Unweighted base)	(996)	(466)	(295)	(168)	(95)	(356)	(116)	(238)
<i>How confident are you that people like you, working together, can...?</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...affect what <u>local businesses in your community</u> do about global warming?	51	63	67	57	47	33	34	32
...affect what your <u>local government</u> does about global warming?	50	64	67	60	45	32	36	29
...affect what your <u>state government</u> does about global warming?	46	59	63	52	37	31	33	29
...affect what <u>corporations</u> do about global warming?	39	50	51	48	32	26	27	25
...affect what the <u>federal government</u> does about global warming?	38	46	49	42	32	28	29	26

How confident are you that people like you, working together, can...?

December 2018. Base: Registered American Voters.



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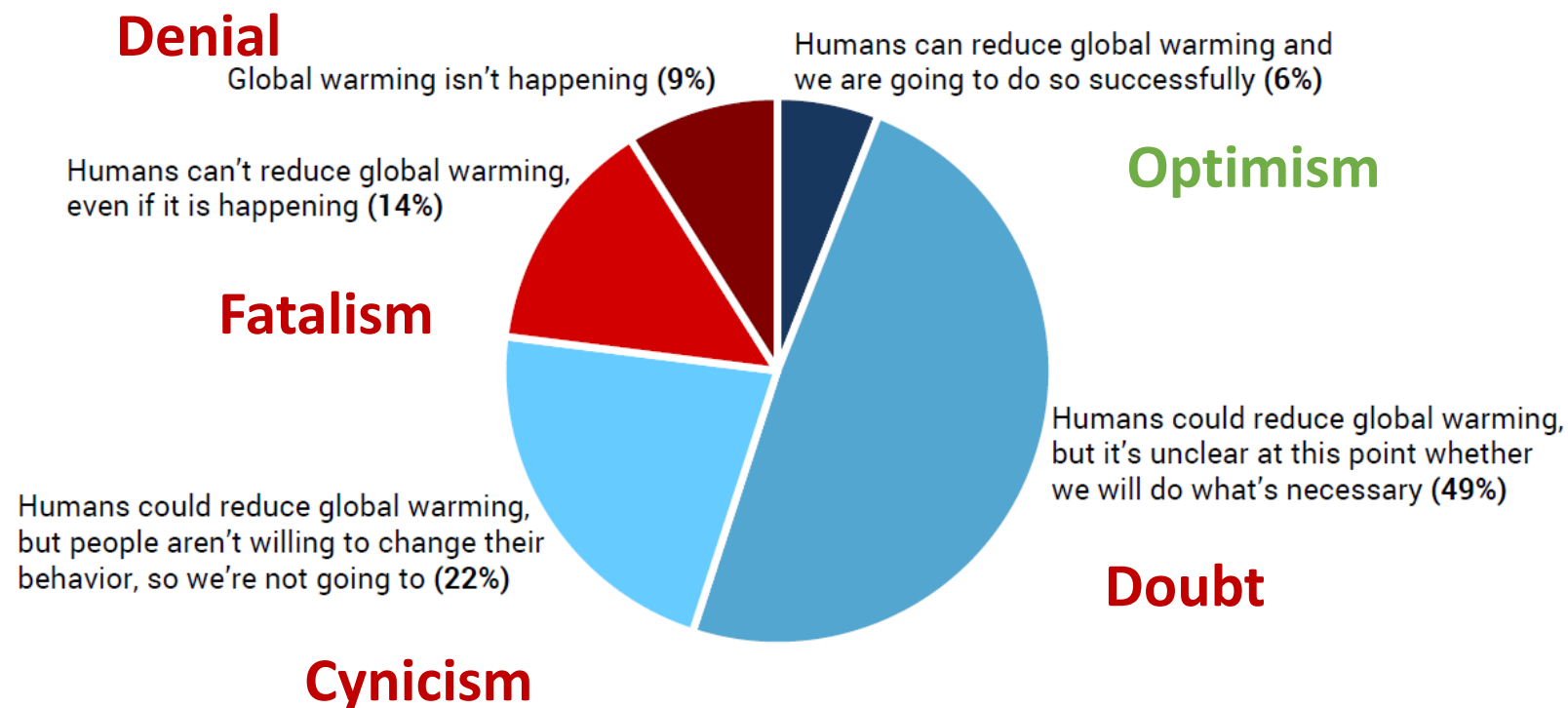


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A Majority of Americans Think Humans Can Reduce Global Warming

- But few are optimistic that we will -

Which of the following comes closest to your view?

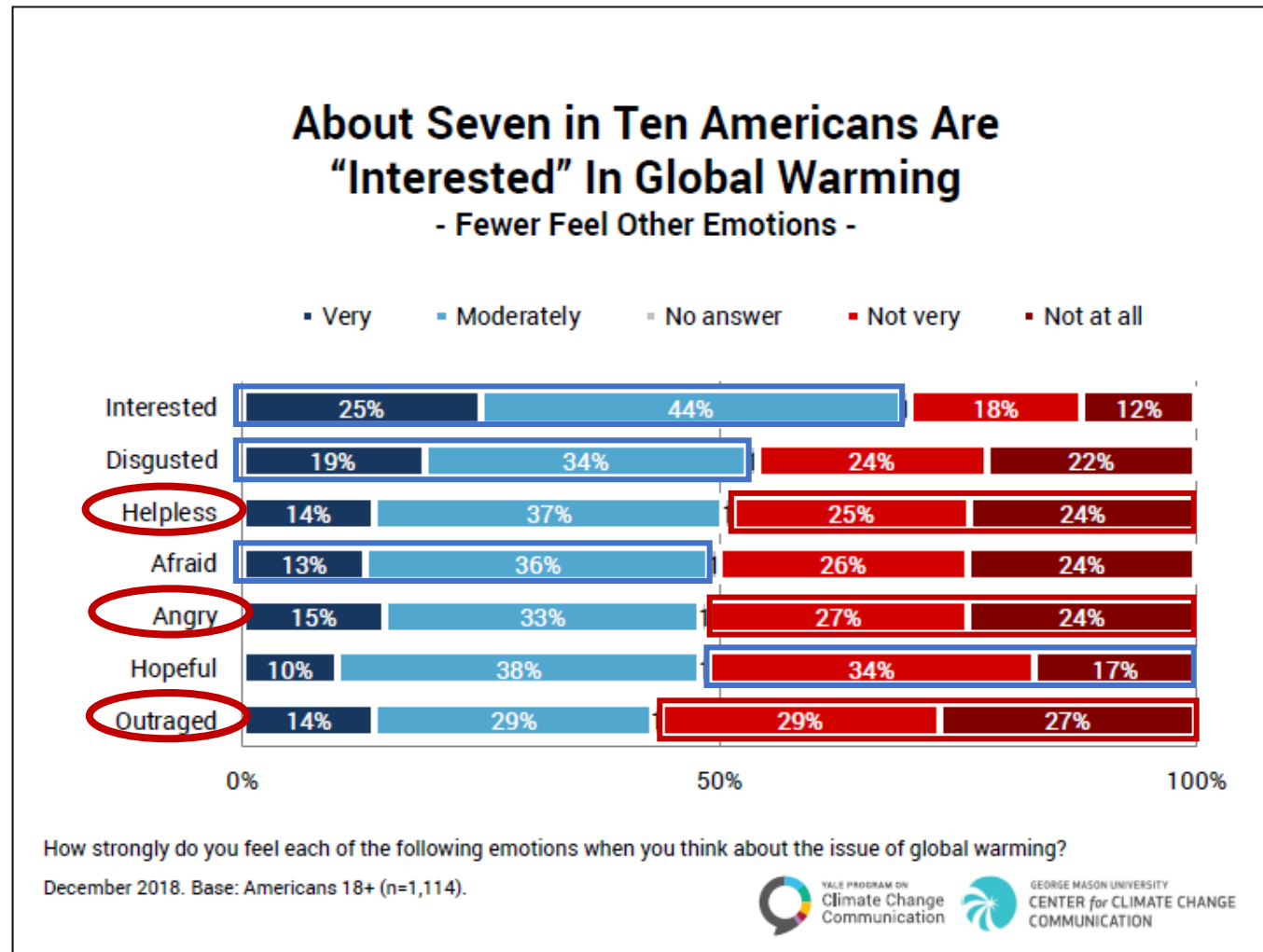


Which of the following comes closest to your view?

March 2018. Base: Americans 18+ (n=1,278).



This doesn't look like a people who don't care...



Source: Leiserowitz et al. (2018)

Why are people where they are on the climate crisis?

Summary: Influences on people's opinions and attitudes

- Competing issues > varying degrees of paying **attention** (experiences can help)
- **Knowledge of climate change** and depth of information processing
- **Knowledge of how to create social change** and acceptance/objections to changes/solutions
- Various degrees of **political engagement** and sense of **political efficacy**
- **Emotional responses** to climate change
- Prevailing **social norms**
- Deeply held **values**
- Difficult-to-change **beliefs** and **worldviews**

Early concerns:

How to talk about climate change, raise awareness

Early trainings:

How to educate people about climate change

Then:

How to deal with climate skeptics

Recent trainings:

How to help people cope with climate grief, maintain hope



Not just change – but inevitable loss



Photo: Americares.org

- Loss of health
- Loss of life
- Loss of home
- Loss of livelihood
- Loss of places/sense of place
- Loss of social connection
- Loss of species
- Loss of diversity
- Loss of habitat
- Loss of landscapes
- Loss of seasons
- Loss of life support systems
- Loss of sense of security
- Loss of certainty
- Loss of well-being
- Loss of trust in future
- Loss of identity
- Loss of hope

What if we actually care a whole lot?!



Photo: Pinterest

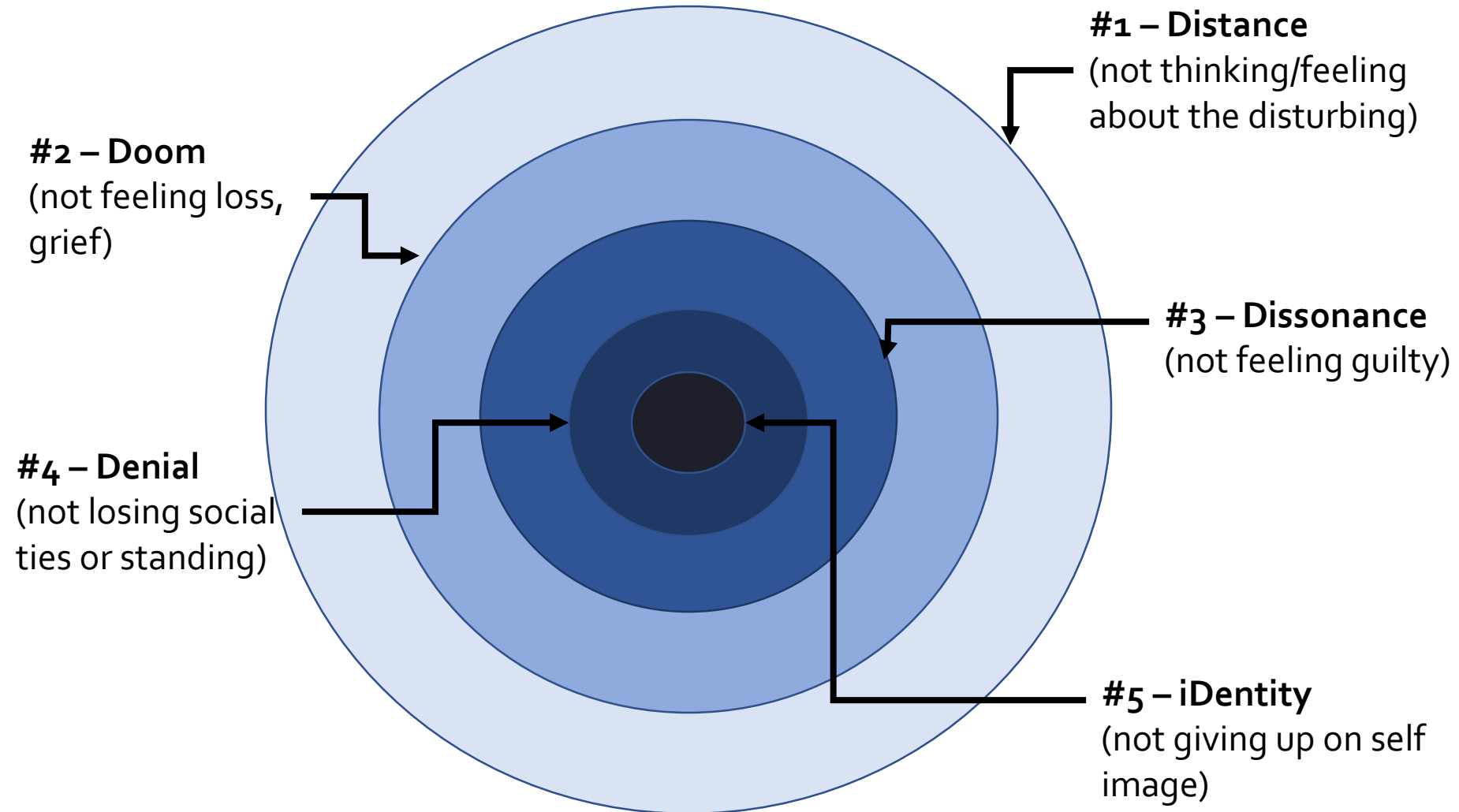
- Threat to all we love (our families, communities, place where we live, places we treasure, nature...)
- Threat to all we have
- Threat to all we depend on for life and livelihood
- Threat to future generations
- Threat to our identities

Psychological responses to existential threats



We either reduce the threat.....or..... We reduce the feeling about the threat

5 Layers of Self-Defense



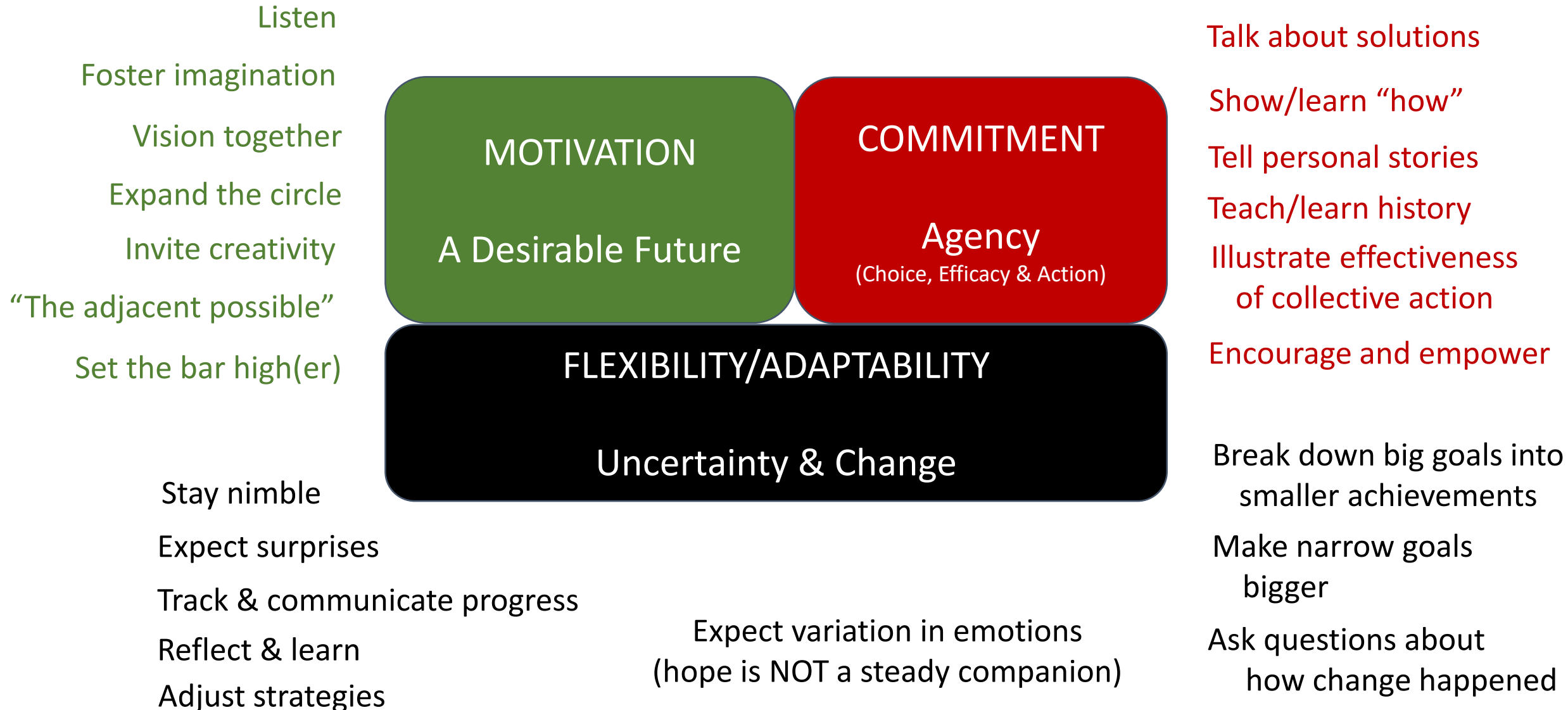
Dealing with the Hopeless • Apathetic • Closed-Minded



Grounds for Hope?



You Can Help Foster Hope -- in Yourself and Others!



Seven Ingredients of Grounded/Active Hope



Photo:villageofhopeuganda.com

Apathy...numbing...denial

- The thing that **comes after**
 - Consideration of the facts
 - Fear and overwhelm
- It is a “**maladaptive**” response to the threat
 - Not lack of motivation
 - But lack of efficacy
 - Personal
 - Response
 - Collective



Photos (l>r): familylifecanada.com, businessinsider.com

- **Countering Apathy**
 - Empathy
 - Listening
 - Finding a spark of caring
 - Validation and affirmation
 - Learning from history, how change happens
 - Linking to how this is contributing to positive change
 - Supporting/joining action

Passionate, hyperactive, un-strategic & closed-minded

Many variations on this theme

- “My way or the high way...”
(e.g., we got to go 100% nuclear)
- “We got to do something,
anything...I don’t care what!”
- “My issue is more important
than your issue” (e.g., we got to
solve racism first)
- “But I do recycle...”
- Etc.

No easy answers!

- Avoid debate where both sides just
dig in their heels
- Dialogue
 - Requires time, empathy, curiosity,
listening, being prepared to change
one’s mind
 - Does not require agreement on
solutions
- Joint fact finding about problems,
solutions with systemic perspective
- Pick people up where they are and
take them to the next step

Thank you!



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Urgency is that sense that something important must be attended to immediately and cannot wait. It moves us out of the comfort of the status quo to gain the cooperation of others to plan and execute change efforts, and to keep going in the face of obstacles, deep-seated inertia, the ever-present temptation of complacency, or even the necessary small, early wins on the path to deeper transformation.



Efficacy gives us the sense that we can affect change (self-efficacy), that we are doing so successfully together with others (collective efficacy), and that the actions we are taking actually make a difference in the ultimate outcome (response efficacy).

Motivational Interviewing

“a collaborative conversation style for strengthening a person’s own motivation and commitment to change.”
W. Miller and S. Rollnick, *Motivational Interviewing* (3rd ed.)

Four processes of Motivational Interviewing	Core Techniques of MI	The spirit of Motivational Interviewing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engaging - building rapport and an understanding of their perspective• Focusing - identifying a direction of change important to them and goals within this• Evoking - drawing out change talk, with importance of change and confidence for change• Planning - collaboratively identifying steps and supporting their confidence to take these.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open questions - invite to explore• Affirmation - acknowledge interest, positive behavior• Reflective listening - mirror and draw out common understanding• Summarizing – connect the dots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative partnership - each of you brings expertise• Profound acceptance - their life, their choice• Compassion - acting in their interests, not manipulation• Evocative - drawing out from them

Source: Adapted from Chris Johnstone (2019)

Communication for/amidst a societal transformation: Creating the conditions for a peaceful tomorrow



Ten Tasks

1. Framing the full arc of a transformation
2. Fostering imagination
3. Supporting through empathy
4. Living with uncertainty
5. Course-correcting toward the difficult
6. Resisting numbing
7. Sense- and meaning-making
8. Fostering authentic and radical hope
9. Fostering generative engagement for a just future
10. Living a public love