


Name _____

Date _____

Preparing for a Seminar
“Coral Reefs & Climate Change: Last Straw for a Threatened Ecosystem”

Step 1: As you read the article, use a highlighter and highlight any parts of the text that “jump out at you”. These would be sentences or passages that meant something to you, made you think, or surprised you. Highlight these parts of the text so that you can easily share them with your peers during the seminar.


Step 2: Think about the following questions. Write your ideas down next to each question so you can easily discuss your thoughts during the seminar.


 Coral reefs have been referred to as the “rainforests of the sea”. Do you think this is an appropriate analogy? Why or why not?


 Why are coral reef ecosystems important to us?

 How are coral reefs being threatened?

 Explain the relationship between coral and zooxanthellae. How is global warming and climate change impacting this relationship?

 Based on this article, what seems to be the biggest cause of coral reef decline? Why? Do you think this trend could be reversed? If so, what would have to change?

 If you were the president, would you take measures to protect coral reefs? If so, what would you do?

 Do you believe that each person can do his/her part of protect against coral reef decline? If so, what can you do personally?

Step 3: Write two questions about coral reefs you would like to ask your peers during the seminar. These should be “fat” questions. They should encourage discussion of many different viewpoints rather than one simple answer.