

Climate Camp User Research Sessions – Climate Change Prototypes

Last updated: July 7, 2017

What we will be testing

- There will be three early prototypes of HoPE digital interactives that we would like to test
- All fall into the topic of "Warming World", or using observed temperature data provided by NASA to learn about global warming
- Each prototype looks at temperature data in a different way to teach a particular lesson:
 - **Short term noise, long term trend:** participants view global temperature data at different timescales (by month, year, decade, century) to show short term noise, seasonal patterns, and long term trends (i.e. the Earth is warming)
 - **Warming around the world:** participants view localized temperature anomaly data to show how warming happens unevenly around the world, e.g. the Arctic is warming more than in lower latitudes
 - **What is causing the Earth to warm:** participants view different natural and human factors that "force" the climate warmer or cooler to demonstrate that it is in fact anthropogenic greenhouse gases that is the primary driver of global warming and not natural factors such as volcanos, orbital changes, or variations in solar temperature.

Format

- Small groups (3-5) preferred given limited screens and controls available
- After brief introductions, open ended exploration of the prototypes will be encouraged
- Participants will be encouraged to "think aloud" and ask questions as they are using the prototypes
- Staff will be there to observe and lightly guide participants if they get stuck (e.g. answer a question with a question)
- The goal would be to test how intuitive/informative the interactives are with little to no guidance
- The testing session will be followed by a short group discussion

Approximate session outline (45 minutes)

1. Introduction to HoPE, team, and project (5 min)
2. Open ended interaction with 3 prototypes (30 minutes) - participants take turns using each prototype with light guidance by staff
 - a. Short term noise, long term trend (10 minutes)

- b. Warming around the world (10 minutes)
 - c. What is causing the Earth to warm? (10 minutes)
- 3. Group discussion (10 minutes)
 - a. What did you learn
 - b. What was confusing
 - c. What was memorable
 - d. What would you have liked to see