

Argumentative Essay Outline: *Why We Should Save Earth Before Colonizing Mars*

Introduction

- **Hook:** Humans dream of living on Mars, but Earth is already in trouble.
 - **Background:** Bruce Dorminey argues that before spending energy on colonizing Mars, we should fix Earth's pollution, protect its species, and prepare for real dangers.
 - **Thesis Statement:** We must focus on saving Earth first because it is our only proven home, it holds unique biodiversity, and lessons learned here will prepare us for future colonization.
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Body Paragraph 1 – Earth is Already Habitable

- **Claim:** Earth already supports human life, so fixing it is more practical than starting over on Mars.
 - **Evidence:** Dorminey says, "*Why not simply take that energy and rectify our own Earth back to its former glory?*" (Paragraph 4).
 - **Reasoning:** Cleaning oceans and air pollution is achievable now, while terraforming Mars would take centuries.
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Body Paragraph 2 – Protecting Earth's Biodiversity

- **Claim:** Earth's animals and ecosystems are disappearing and must be saved.
 - **Evidence:** Dorminey notes, "*...including its disappearing species of rhinos, elephants, tigers, lions, dolphins and whales.*" (Paragraph 6).
 - **Reasoning:** Losing species weakens Earth's environment and harms future generations. Protecting them is urgent.
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Body Paragraph 3 – Knowledge and Responsibility

- **Claim:** We don't even fully understand Earth's life yet, so leaving it behind is irresponsible.
 - **Evidence:** Dorminey points out, "*...we still haven't cataloged all of our own Earth's biota.*" (Paragraph 7).
 - **Reasoning:** Studying Earth's plants and animals teaches us how life works, which is essential before trying to create life on Mars.
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Body Paragraph 4 – Planetary Defense and Rare Risks

- **Claim:** The bigger danger is ignoring Earth's problems, not asteroid strikes.
 - **Evidence:** Dorminey explains, "*...the biggest current blindside may be simply not taking care of planet Earth.*" (Paragraph 13).
 - **Reasoning:** Asteroid impacts are rare (last one 65 million years ago), but pollution and climate change are happening now.
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Body Paragraph 5 – Lessons for the Future

- **Claim:** Protecting Earth will prepare us for colonizing other planets later.
 - **Evidence:** Dorminey writes, "*What we learn from cleaning up our own planet and preserving its flora and fauna will only help us when terraforming the world next door.*" (Paragraph 14).
 - **Reasoning:** Skills in environmental care and sustainability will transfer to space colonization when the time is right.
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Conclusion

- **Restate Thesis:** Saving Earth must come before colonizing Mars.
 - **Summary of Points:** Earth is habitable, biodiversity is at risk, we still have much to learn, real dangers are here now, and lessons from Earth will guide us later.
 - **Closing Thought:** If we don't fix Earth, our civilization may not last long enough to reach Mars.
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