

Amber Neal

Senior Division Environmental Sciences

Bringing The Greenhouse Effect Down To Earth

The purpose of my project is to compare the amount of carbon dioxide found in various sources. Four balloons will be filled with ambient air, human exhalation, automobile exhaust, and nearly pure CO₂. The gases in the balloons will be released into a bromothymol blue indicator solution to create carbonic acid. The created solution then has drops of dilute ammonia added to neutralize the carbonic acid. To compare the amount of CO₂ in the solutions, I will compare the number of dilute drops added to neutralize the carbonic acid. The study proved to be very difficult in some aspects and in the end came up with the results of ambient air having no identifiable level of CO₂. Next the Human exhalation had an identifiable amount of CO₂, but not the highest level. Then the car exhaust was next with a much more identifiable level of CO₂ than what was shown in the human exhalation. The highest level was in the nearly pure CO₂ that took the most to recover to its original state. These results show that the car exhaust contributes a lot to the provable increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Also, the fact that humans exhale CO₂ plays a part because the human population is exponentially increasing. This increase along with the decrease in the world forests can play a huge part in the increase of the greenhouse effect.