

Corrigé of Mines-like paper - Space

1. According to the astronaut, why is space travel “a necessary evil”? Answer the question in your own words. (80 words, ± 10%)

Space travel is deemed a "necessary evil" by the astronaut due to its dual nature. While acknowledging its environmental impact, he emphasizes its indispensable role in understanding and preserving Earth. He highlights that despite space travel contributing to environmental effects, such as emissions, it's crucial for satellite research and technological advancements. The benefits gained, like satellite data for climate monitoring, outweigh the relatively small environmental impact compared to other industries, emphasizing its vital role in enhancing our understanding and protection of Earth.

82 words

2. What impact do you think celebrities like Thomas Pesquet are likely to have on the general public or on governments' policies? (180 words, ± 10%) Illustrate your answer with pertinent examples.

Now that celebrities and the general public share the same platforms, outspoken actors, singers, athletes can exert a form of direct influence over their audience, and, in turn over those who govern them. However, does it mean that celebrities are more effectively influential today than they were before?

Leonardo DiCaprio and Emma Watson have had substantial influence in advocating respectively for environmental causes and gender equality. They have contributed to elevating awareness, prompting funding and global discussions at the UN level, influencing public opinion and pressuring policymakers.

In a pre-social media era, committed celebrities often called out to their government. Jane Fonda was a political activist during the Vietnam War, earning her nickname "Hanoi Jane". She was blacklisted in Hollywood while she became an anti-war icon. The pressure against the Vietnam war eventually led to a change in policies but it was a very large movement joined by thousands of protestors and potential electors, famous and not famous.

So, even if some celebrity activists get close to decision makers, like recently Greta Thunberg who actually got to meet and directly address top world leaders and was listed by Forbes among the World's 100 most influential women in the world, their individual impact seems minimal.

199 words

ANGLAIS

Thème

"Warning! After the planet, it's now low Earth orbit that is under threat. In less than a decade, this nearby suburb stretching between 400 and 1 200 kilometers from Earth has turned into a “playground where all excesses can be expressed,” Raphaël Chevrier laments in his book *The Space Vandals*. The main culprit is Elon Musk, “the first to kickstart this” and who, “after initially fascinating, is becoming a cause for serious concern,” notes this physicist working in the space industry. This revolution, known as the “New Space,” which has opened up to startups a domain previously reserved for major public institutions, initially rekindled dreams of space conquest.

“One thing is certain: space, now the new frontier, has never been so accessible,” the author remarks while listing the numerous ongoing private projects. All this occurs in a context of militarization of space and especially without precise rules. The law of the jungle prevails, much like during the era of the Wild West conquest.”