Discussion Questions for *The Day After Tomorrow*

The Day After Tomorrow is the latest Hollywood blockbuster disaster flick, this time about a sudden, dramatic change in climate that causes disasters around the world. Below, we provide you with some questions to help you assess the potential validity of some of the changes depicted in the movie. We'll discuss these as a group afterwards, so take some notes as you watch. You should turn in a **typed** one-page report on the movie that includes responses to these items.

1. The opening scene shows the collapse of a massive ice shelf (a floating glacier) in Antarctica. Could this really happen? If so, how might it affect global sea level?

2. The central premise of the film is that global warming could lead to the shutdown of the North Atlantic "heat pump" (probably the major driver of global ocean circulation), causing extreme changes in climate around the world. Is this possible?

3. In the film, tornadoes whip through Los Angeles, and New York is buried by a storm surge of Biblical proportions – all in a matter of days. Could an eco-Armageddon really happen so quickly with these effects?

4. The movie depicts a massive freeze sweeping across Europe and then striking the northern half of the United States, resulting in a mass migration to Mexico for survival. Is this how global warming is likely to develop in the next century? Why or why not?

5. In the movie, Dennis Quaid, who plays the hero as an intrepid climatologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has a scientific epiphany when he concludes that the unfolding catastrophe represents the dawn of another Ice Age 10,000 years in the making. What is his evidence for this conclusion? Does his hypothesis really make sense? Why or why not?