

Locus of Control

Read the following statements and find the one(s) that best capture your own beliefs.

- Because a handful of key individuals really affect the decisions of a politician on an environmental issue, people like myself are relatively ineffective in determining the outcome of environmental quality.
- Since politicians probably form their own ideas about solutions to environmental problems, it would be useless to contact and present them with my views on the issues.
- Achieving and maintaining environmental quality is really the result of chance happenings since any conservation practices I could utilize would be ineffective or simply not sufficient.
- Outcomes of environmental issues are unpredictable, so my use of ecologically sound practices seems pointless.
- If I were to report the violation of an environmental law, it would either be luck or coincidence if anything came of it, i.e., if the violation really came to a halt.
- I support environmental and social lobbies hoping that it'll make some kind of difference, but I don't really believe it will make any major difference.
- If I don't act on behalf of the environment, who will?
- Even if I don't make a huge positive difference, at least I don't collaborate with those who act to destroy the environment. I don't want to have any part in that, if I can avoid it.
- Of course, I can affect environmental quality. There are so many ways in which I do: I call and write to my congress person, I behave in ecologically responsible ways, I think about what kinds of products I buy and thus what kind of economy I support, I support environmental and human rights groups, and I can try to convince others to do the same.

Source: Adapted and extended from N.J. Smith-Sebasto. 1992. The revised perceived environmental control measure: A review and analysis. *Journal of Environmental Education* 23, 2: 24-33; statements derived from his on p.27.