

ENVR 195 Group Presentations

Group Presentation (15%): Students will investigate a case study on their selected natural resource topic (e.g. forests, water, biodiversity), compare and contrast it to the Adirondacks, present their findings to the class, and facilitate class discussion on the topic.

Choosing a topic: Look over the readings for class and get a good idea of the material covered. Pick a topic that complements the course readings. For example, if your topic is forests you can select a specific tropical forest in Costa Rica for your case study. Provide an overview of the biophysical, social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions of the region. What makes it unique? How is this area being managed? What are its greatest challenges? If you locate an issue in the newspaper or from an on-line news source, further research your topic in peer-reviewed journals.

What your presentation should include: The PowerPoint presentation and discussion should be 30 minutes. You should incorporate the political, social, economic, ecological, and cultural elements of the issue. Provide a geographical perspective – why is this environmental problem/solution occurring in this place? After discussing your case study you need to compare it to the Adirondacks. How are the two areas similar? How are they different? What recommendations do you have to deal with this environmental issue?

Leading discussion: In addition to presenting your topic, you are responsible for leading/facilitating class discussion. This will require thorough knowledge of your topic and a solid understanding of the course readings. A list of questions for the class should be prepared ahead of time to ensure that students will discuss relevant issues and you should try to engage all class participants in the discussion.

Presentation outline: You must submit an outline of your presentation at least three days prior to the date of your presentation. The outline must answer the following questions:

What is the topic?

What are the issues?

What is the historical context?

What are the causes and potential solutions to the environmental problem?

Who are the stakeholders and what are their concerns?

Where did you get your information?

How does your case study compare to the Adirondacks?

What questions are you going to ask the class?