

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES and SOLUTIONS: Research Project

Individual Paper and Group Presentation

The project will provide students with the opportunity to research a current environmental issue and present their findings to the class.

Individual Research Paper / IRP (6 page): Each student will provide an overview of their environmental topic/issue and in-depth discussion from a particular perspective (Ecological, Social, Political, or Economic).

Group Presentation: The group project will provide students with the opportunity to work together to research a current environmental issue and present their findings to the class. The presentation should incorporate an interdisciplinary framework and include the ecological, social, political, and economic dimensions of the issue – along with proposed solutions.

- Each group will have 15-20 minutes to present their findings -- focusing on the significant elements of the environmental issue
- Each group will have 5 minutes to answer questions from the class and will facilitate a discussion of the environmental issue with the rest of the class
- Use graphics (e.g. PowerPoint)
- Include a detailed map as appropriate
- Use a diversity of references (e.g. government documents, journal articles, books, etc.). Personal interviews can also be included.
- Briefly summarize the issue
- Include a synopsis of the ecological impacts
- Discuss the social and economic ramifications of the issue
- Describe the political background, including stakeholder views on the topic
- Discuss alternative solutions
- Make a recommendation and discuss why you chose this course of action
- Each group member will provide a concise summary of the group project and their specific tasks on the project (including their own personal list of references)

Assignment Dates

- Sept 3 – Environmental Issues – Ideas for Paper/Project
- Sept 12 – Chose Topic for Research Paper and Team Project
- Oct 1 – One paragraph Summary of IRP, Annotated List of Sources (at least eight – 2 journal, 2 newspaper, 2 book or report, 2 website)
- Oct 17 – Draft of Individual Research Paper
- Nov 5 – Final of Individual Research Paper
- Nov 12 – Executive Summary and Outline of Group Project
- Nov 28 and Dec 3 – Group Presentations: Environmental Issues and Solutions