ES 10 Extra Credit Research Project

This project is an opportunity to explore an environmental science topic of your choice. The project consists of three parts (up to 15 points each, for a maximum total of 45). Each part has its own due date; no late work will be accepted. You may complete Part 3 only if you have earned credit on Parts 1 and 2; you may complete Part 2 only if you have earned credit on Part 1. You may earn extra credit for only one extra credit project.

**PICK A TOPIC.** Provide a description of your subject and get it approved by Nicole Crane or Sue Holt. Because your paper will only be three pages long, choose a very specific topic or focus on a single aspect of a topic. For example, your topic should be no broader than the material covered by your instructors in a few slides. Nicole and Sue can help you narrow your focus. In your description, cite two references you expect to use; follow the citation guidelines in Part 1.

**YOUR TOPIC IS DUE OCT 8.**

**Part 1: Select and summarize at least six references on your topic.** Choose references from magazine and newspaper articles, the Internet, journal articles, etc. A good search method is given at [http://libwww.cabrillo.edu/depts/politicalscience/findingjournalarticles.html](http://libwww.cabrillo.edu/depts/politicalscience/findingjournalarticles.html). Cite each reference properly. If you are unfamiliar with citation methods, use [http://libwww.cabrillo.edu/depts/library/styleguide-apa.pdf](http://libwww.cabrillo.edu/depts/library/styleguide-apa.pdf) or a librarian or Writing Center tutor for assistance. For each reference, write a couple paragraphs describing and summarizing the specific information you intend to use from it for your paper topic. You must use at least three non-Internet sources. **REFERENCE MATERIALS ARE DUE OCT 22.**

**Part 2: Write a three-page paper explaining and discussing your topic.** Be concise and to-the-point. Use footnotes to identify your sources for any information that is not common knowledge. Papers must be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced. Include footnotes and bibliography on a fourth page. (Read the bottom of this sheet to understand how your paper will be graded). Avoid emotive statements – focus on the science instead. Use quotations only for dramatic or pity statements; otherwise paraphrase. Do not plagiarize! All text should be your own words, not anyone else’s! (At Sue’s homepage, see the link with an example of how to rephrase material into your own words.)

**PAPERS ARE DUE NOV 19.**

**Part 3: Present a PowerPoint slide show to the class.** Based on your paper, create PowerPoint slides that convey the key points you learned from your research. Slides may contain text, images, graphs, etc. Use a large font (size 20 or larger) and limit your slides to the main points that support your oral presentation. Avoid cluttering your slides with too much detail; the slides should be more of an outline that you fill in with your oral presentation. Time limits for presentations will be determined later, but are generally about 5-8 minutes. **A FILE OF YOUR PRESENTATION IS DUE DEC 3. GIVE YOUR PRESENTATION IN CLASS DEC 10.**

If you have any questions or difficulties regarding this project, please don’t hesitate to contact Nicole or Sue or any other of the Cabrillo College resources. The Writing Center tutors are particularly helpful. We hope you learn a lot from your research and share it with the rest of us!

**Grading Criteria for Written Materials**

Your paper will be graded based on the following factors. A maximum of 5 points will be awarded for each category.

- **Technical Requirements:** fulfills required elements in terms of length, references, footnotes, etc.
- **Writing Level:** materials are well-organized, proof-read and appropriate for college level.
- **Content:** topic is appropriate and written material demonstrates a thorough understanding.

**Note:** All due dates are final; no late work will be accepted.