

English 2, Emphasis on Environmental Ethics

Paper #4: Research paper: Analytic Argument on an Issue of Sustainability/Environmental Ethics of Personal or Local Connection — 7-10 pages.

***Topic & scope outline and works cited due:

***Rough draft due:

***Final draft due:

You live in a place, and you grew up in a place, or places. You spend a lot of time these days in a particular place. What do you know of these places, and what kinds of ties do you have to them? How have these places changed in your experience of them? For this paper, choose a place that truly sparks your interest and to which, preferably, you have some personal connection. The place can be as big as a college or a bay, or as small as a stream or piece of shoreline. (Use your imagination to expand the definition of “place,” if you’d like.) Narrow down an issue of sustainability and environmental ethics about this place. You will be writing an analytic argument in favor of a particular stance about this issue, such as you practiced in your previous paper. Although the issue doesn’t necessarily need to be controversial, it should have at least two sides to it, one that you argue for with sound logic and (other) researched evidence. Also similar to your previous paper, you’ll most likely need to acknowledge, then concede or refute, major arguments of the side(s) opposing yours. Do make sure you’re not writing merely an informational report. It’s an argument paper.

Start out by setting the context: clear descriptions of the place and of the issue. Show ample background on both so that readers clearly understand what you perceive to be at stake. Invest yourself in the description of the place; show your connection to it. Then describe the issue about it as clearly and objectively as possible, showing all the perspectives involved. Argue reasonably and with good evidence for the way you think the issue should be resolved. Take into account, as mentioned above, those viewpoints not in accordance with yours, and deal with them by reasonable refutation — showing why they won’t work — or conceding why parts of them may work.

Depending on your topic, some papers may take the form of Problem/Solution — and this is fine. In this case, you would be arguing for a particular solution, showing why it is the best, why others won’t work as well.

There are various issues local to the Monterey Bay Area for example:

Sea walls: should they be built or not?

Pesticide use in local agriculture: strawberries, Brussels sprouts, and artichokes are among the most heavily pesticided crops. What are the effects on various ecosystems, on humans? Look at issues of environmental justice here. Is going organic on a widespread scale a viable solution?

Environmental impact of widening Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County: Take a stand about what our transportation future should look like.

Overfishing in Monterey Bay: what to do about it (salmon, rock cod, etc.).

Cruise ships in Monterey Bay: what to do about the pollution they cause.

Causes of local beach and ocean pollution (Remember that rash you incurred last time you surfed?!): what to do to mitigate this.

Look at issues of water, such as ownership of water (e.g., in Felton), pollutants in water (e.g., MTBE in Soquel Creek water), inadequacy of water for the population and proposed solutions, such as desalination.

Threatened or endangered species in Santa Cruz County: the best way to deal with these. (You may need to narrow it to one species in particular.)

Any issue of wildlands preservation vs. land development; these are ongoing — e.g., expansion of UCSC or other commercial/housing developments; treatment of our local forests.

You can get even more local. Consider these possibilities for Cabrillo College. Some might require a collaborative research and writing effort among, say, three students. (Talk to the instructor for help with this.)

Look at the nature of the food served here: Do people like it? How much of it is organic and/or locally grown? Develop a solution for the lack of sustainability in the campus's food service: Look at farm-to-school programs (or should Cabrillo have its own organic vegetable garden?). Look at waste: What about the dishes, cups and implements; are they recyclable? Compostable? Is thrown-away food composted? You could also delve into issues of labor: Are food staff members paid adequately to the cost of living in this county? What knowledge do they bring about issues of food (e.g., nutrition, transporting)?

Cabrillo has benefitted from two community bond measures: Building has been burgeoning! Take a closer look at these buildings: Find out what you can about their sustainability by interviewing contractors or administrators. e.g., What carbon dioxide-saving devices have been incorporated into them? What measures could or should be taken?

What kind of education for sustainable living would you like to see implemented at Cabrillo?

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No matter your topic, you must use at least five (5) sources, with these stipulations:

1. Use at least one essay from Environmental Ethics by Botzler and Armstrong.
2. Use at least two other non-internet print sources.
3. Document your paper throughout and on a Works Cited page. Choose APA or MLA, and be consistent in your documentation. Make sure that every in-text citation has its corresponding entry on the Works Cited page. Look at WLTC, Ch. 9 concerning documentation or any grammar handbook, as well as the example in class. We'll be talking about this!
4. **Annotate each entry briefly; that is, for each source on your Works Cited page, write two or three sentences that show how that source was useful to writing your paper.** Don't forget this part; I will not accept papers without these annotations.
5. Be highly careful, compulsive and anal retentive concerning your fair use of in-text citations and your precise documentation of sources on your Works Cited page. This discipline will serve you well throughout college and beyond.