ES 10 Environmental Sciences Extra Credit Research Project

This project is worth 45 points (see next page for tips).

This project should be FUN for you, and a chance to explore and present a topic of interest to you. Take this opportunity to expand your knowledge on a topic of your choice relating to environmental sciences using current newspapers, magazines and journals, the internet, other people (experts), books, etc.

Your class project consists of 3 things:

1) a list of references, with a short paragraph describing what was in each of your sources (minimum of 6 of these)
2) a ~700 word summary of your project with key points and your key message (about 2-3 pages double spaced).
3) a Powerpoint presentation with main points on each slide. This should be designed for a 8-10 minute presentation

Each component is worth 15 points. You may do all three for 45 points, or turn in 1 or 2 components for 15 points each. If you decide to do only one, you must do #1, if you decide to do 2, you must #1 and #2.

1. Your project must be approved by your instructor – Nicole Crane or Sue Holt.

2. All writing must be typed, 12 point font, (times font if possible), and double-spaced. Please check for grammar and spelling.

3. Use material available to you: Internet, scientific journals, books, people, magazines, newspapers. You must use a minimum of 6 sources, and list those. Only three internet sources may count towards the 6 (although you can use more!).

4. Write the reference down, and a brief summary (1-2 paragraphs) of what the article/site/book/chapter etc. said about the issue and what you found useful (there should be at least 6 of these). Include a copy of the first page of each source.

5. NOW – tie all these articles together as a theme, which is the theme or topic that you were interested in. Write a ~ 700 word (approx 2-3 page) analysis of the articles taken together as a theme. Think carefully about your analysis, 700 words is not much!

6. Prepare an 8- 10 minute powerpoint presentation. The powerpoint should be a series of slides that essentially organizes your summary into a presentation. Each slide should be concise, and emphasize one or a few main points. Avoid lots of words on each slide, and focus instead on visuals (pictures etc.) and the key points. Please include one or a few slides for introduction and conclusion.
TIPS FOR YOUR EXTRA CREDIT RESEARCH PROJECT

Your class project requires for 3 things:

4) a list of references, with a short paragraph describing what was in each of your sources (minimum of 6 of these)
5) a ~700 word summary of your project with key points and your key message (about 2-3 pages double spaced).
6) a power point presentation with main points on each slide. This should be designed for a 10 minute presentation

Let us give you some tips on each of these. First, some general tips:

General tip 1: narrow your topic down to a specific topic with maybe one or two specific examples. With 500 words, you have so little space to say anything, that a general overview (such as global warming), will have little impact on the reader. Try choosing one aspect of global warming (such as the impact on farming), and then narrow it down to a specific example to use in your paper, such as the effects of farming in Canada, or Africa etc. Or, choose one aspect of an animal’s biology, or one issue relating to a particular habitat, or one specific conservation issue.

General tip 2: your project needs a title. Try choosing a catchy title that gives the reader a clue about the specific example you pursued.

General tip 3: Do not plagiarize (cut and paste or otherwise copy text or words from what you read). I can tell that it’s not your words – its usually easy to see. I’d rather see some errors in your own writing than perfect but copied stuff.

General tip 4: Proof read your work for grammar and flow. This is a college class and I expect college level writing and idea development. If you need help with this there are resources on campus or in your friends and classmates (or me) – seek them out!
**General tip 5:** You don’t have much space or time to make your point and present the information, so you need to know your subject well. It is actually quite a bit harder to make a good presentation of a sound argument in little time (or short space. In order to do it well, you need to read, review and know your material well. This will ensure that you choose important details to present, and that your message is cohesive and strong. Also, you are doing a presentation, so imagine that people might ask you questions, and you’ll need some depth of knowledge to answer them.

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**The short paragraphs** describing what is in your references.

Include enough information for me to understand that you understood what you read. These should include an overview of the main points of each article (or section of the website etc.). **One paragraph for EACH reference!** (6 paragraphs total)

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**The up to 700 word summary** is short. This is why using one (maybe two) specific examples is effective.

Have an **introductory paragraph** (this one will be about the general topic, and will introduce the specific example). This paragraph should also include your main point, or the main thing you are trying to say. Have a message for the reader, and make sure that message is clearly and convincingly presented. You want to change people’s minds! (or at least cause them to think about it).

Have a **concluding paragraph**. Here, you will drive home your message, and leave the reader thinking about it.

The **body** of the short paper is where you lay out the evidence for your message. This is why I suggest using one (or maybe two) specific examples. These are your evidence, and your way to show that its not just you saying this, but here are some concrete examples.

Make sure you **have a message**, that you let us know what the message is, and how you back it up.

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**The powerpoint presentation.**

If you have never done one, you can either just open the program and start experimenting, or seek help in the library and through other resources on campus. Let me know if you are having trouble finding help. You are preparing a powerpoint designed to take you 10 minutes to present.

Some internet sites that might help:  
[http://www.ismrm.org/03/ppguide.htm](http://www.ismrm.org/03/ppguide.htm)  
[http://www.geocities.com/~webwinds/classes/powerpt.htm](http://www.geocities.com/~webwinds/classes/powerpt.htm)  
Tips for PowerPoint: remember that the guidelines presented to you are just that – guidelines. They are not rules. If your slide is different, don’t worry. Just remember the general guidelines, and don’t violate them by too much too often.

- Rule of thumb is no more than one slide per minute (e.g. Not more than 10 slides for a 10 minute presentation. HOWEVER, that depends on the nature of each slide. Some may have more text, and take longer to explain than others that may just include a pretty picture, and is designed to be visually stimulating.
- Only put main points on the slide. DO NOT put lots of writing, people won’t want to read it all. Instead put your main points there, and be prepared to explain them
- Use big writing (no less than 20 point font, and preferably larger). When you finish a slide, step back away from it and make sure it is easily readable.
- If you put an image such as a graph, make sure you have some main points written next to it that help the reader interpret it. Same goes for an image that is not just meant to be pretty. If you are using an image to make a point, make sure the point (or points) is/are there on the slide.

**General PowerPoint Slide Guidelines**

* Keep the data on slides simple. If you have a great deal of data, divide it among several slides. The content of a single slide should be easily comprehended in 20 seconds. Remember: Seven lines per slide and seven words per line!

* Use large, legible letters.

* If your data slides are black and white, white on a black background shows up better than black on a white background.

* If your data slides are in color, use only light colors, such as white and yellow, on a dark background, such as dark blue. Do not use colors such as red or purple.

* Keep slides of radiographs light. Dense or dark slides project poorly in large rooms. Enlarging the significant areas and using arrows to point out the specific area or lesion often help.

* Patient confidentiality must be protected. No names should appear on the slides.

* Avoid commercial reference unless mandatory. A logo or institutional identification should appear only on the first title slide. Do not use such identification as a header on each slide.

* Limit the number of slides to no more than one (1) for each minute of your presentation. The slides should not contain your entire presentation. Their purpose is to support your talk and to emphasize the important points.
Citing references.

You need to provide a citation of your sources, so that someone else (such as me for example), will be able to look them up and find the exact same one. A good site to help you with how to cite a reference (website, book, journal etc.) is: http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite6.html#1

Some examples:

Book

author  publication date  title

Periodical article

author  publication date  title
Internet citations, some examples:

Authors using and citing Web sources to observe the following guidelines:

- Where possible and relevant, provide URL references to specific documents rather than home or menu pages.
- Provide URLs that work.

To cite an entire Web site (but not a specific document on the site), simply give the site's URL in the text:

Rainbow MOO is a virtual space designed especially for teachers and their elementary-school students (http://it.uwp.edu/rainbow).

To document a specific file, provide as much as possible of the following information:

* Author's name (if available)
* Date of publication or update or date of retrieval, in parentheses
* Title or description of document
* Title of complete work (if relevant), in italics or underlined
* Other relevant information (volume number, page numbers, etc.)
* Retrieval date statement
* URL

**Book**

An online book may be the electronic text of part or all of a printed book, or a book-length document available only on the Internet.


**Article in an electronic journal (ejournal)**


**Abstract**


**Article in an electronic magazine (ezine)**