ES 10 Extra Credit Research Project

This project is an opportunity to explore an environmental science topic of your choice. The project consists of four parts (up to 15 points each for parts 2-4, for a maximum total of 45). Each part has its own due date; no late work will be accepted. Credit on part 3 requires that you earned some credit on part 2. Credit on part 4 requires that you earned some credit on part 3. You may earn extra credit for only one project – paper or field trip.

Part 1: Pick a topic. Provide a written description of your subject and get it approved by Christa or Sue. 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. Christa and Sue can help you narrow your focus. In your description, cite two references you expect to use; follow the citation guidelines in Part 2. YOUR TOPIC IS DUE MARCH 22.

Part 2: Identify and summarize at least six references on your topic. Choose references from magazine and newspaper articles, the Internet, journal articles, science videos, etc. A good search method is given at 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 or a librarian or Writing Center tutor for assistance. (Online references can simply be embedded as hyperlinks IF you submit as an email attachment to Sue.) You may consult Wikipedia, but don’t use it as a source; instead go to its sources. 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 APRIL 19.

Part 3: 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. (If you have found better sources than in Part 2, feel free to substitute them.) Papers must be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced. Put your bibliography on the fourth page. (Read the bottom of this sheet to understand how your paper will be graded). Avoid emotive or personal statements – focus on the science instead. Use quotations only for dramatic or pithy 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 MAY 10.

Part 4: 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. GIVE YOUR PRESENTATION IN CLASS MAY 24.

If you have any questions or difficulties regarding this project, please don’t hesitate to contact an instructor 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.