

Current Issues Portfolio Assignment

Overview

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hired you to research one of several environmental problems. In addition, you will need to provide solutions that will help the environment.

Step #1: Selection of Topic and Targeted Area of Focus

You are going to select from the list of broad environmental problems listed below. Examples of specific areas of focus for each broad topic are indicated. Please select a broad topic along with an area of focus.

Broad Topic	Area of Focus
Water Pollution	Acid rain Soil erosion Dumping of pollutants into water by factories
Global Warming	Temperature increase Stronger storms Rising sea levels
Endangered Species	Damaged ecosystems Destruction of habitat
Global Deforestation	Wildfires Removal of trees for urban development
Atmosphere	Air Pollution Ultraviolet Radiation

Step #2: Identifying the Severity of the Problem

You are going to **find two articles** that describe, in detail, the impact of the problem. Your articles should express how your area of focus is hurting humans and/or the habitat.



Example:

Chosen Topic: Water Pollution

Chosen Areas of Focus: Rising Sea Levels

Article Title: "The Melting Ice Caps Causes Coastline Flooding in India" by John Doe

Step #3: Outlining the Solution to the Problems

Find two articles that describe different solutions that could reduce the severity of the problem.



Example:

Chosen Topic: Water Pollution

Chosen Areas of Focus: Removal of Trees for Urban Development

Article Title: Environmentally Corporations Go Paperless through Email by John Doe

Step #4: Taking Action

Part A- Personal Goals

Now, you need to indicate how you are going to change your daily habits and practices in order to address your chosen environmental problem. In one paragraph, identify those specific activities that you will change in your life. The three activities you choose must be identified and described in detail. Furthermore, your activities must correspond with your area of focus.



Example:

Chosen Topic: Preserving Wildlife and Forest

Chosen Areas of Focus: Reducing Paper Usage

Specific Activity:

Reducing the amount of paper are actions my family and I can take to help improve the environment. My mother can use stick, miniature notes rather than whole sheets of paper to construct shopping lists. My dad can stop printing out his fantasy football statistics but instead view the information on the computer monitor. I can use the entire sheet of paper to record notes or work out the answers while completing my algebra homework each night. I can also

Your paragraph should:

- be 125 to 300 words in length
- contain content that is practical, realistic actions and activities
- Checked thoroughly for spelling, grammar and sentence structure.
- Identify three different strategies that you are going to carry out

Part B- Government Actions

The government plays a significant part in improving the environment. You need to indicate how the local, national or international governments are trying to improve the environment. Be sure to indicate detailed and specific examples illustrating the their efforts have on the population.



Example:

“According to John Doe in the Federal Weekly Times, the Department of Labor is contributing to efforts to help improve the environment. The government is mandating that all federal and state regulated jobs reduce the amount of paper consumption by 20 percent. This requires more employers to rely on the internet to store and access documents. Consumers are impacted by this decision. For example, many people are required to complete on-line applications for jobs pertaining to the U.S. Post Office and FBI. Many people have complained that on-line applications are not user friendly to the average person. Many employers have complained that fewer vacancies are becoming filled since fewer people have access to functional computers. Mandating the use of paper has also impacted me in the process because

(This is a not an actual article.)

First, identify the action being taken

Impact of actions on people and society

Your paragraph should

- be 125 to 300 words in length
- Checked thoroughly for spelling, grammar, and sentence structure.
- Point out the steps that government is taking is address the problem as well as your reaction to the plan.

Step #5: Article Format and Expectations (Step 2 & 3)

For each article summary, students should provide a complete article citation MLA style and a paragraph summary of the main points. If the articles are found online, the URL should be included in citation.

Grading Breakdown

Steps #2 & #3

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| • Two articles identifying the severity of the problem | 10 points |
| • Two articles outlining the solution to the problem | 10 points |

Step #4

Part A- Description of Personal Goals	5 points
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Part B- Identification of Government Actions	5 points
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Total Project	30 points
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