

EnvS 001: INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Fall 2005; Dr. Trulio

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2: 800-Word Writing Assignment (worth 15 points)

General Instructions

This second assignment, as with the first writing assignment, is designed to achieve three objectives: 1) acquaint you with an important topic in Environmental Studies; 2) provide specific instruction on correct writing style; 3) give you practice with paraphrasing, summarizing, citing information, and avoiding plagiarism.

This paper must be typed, using 10 or 12-point font. Allowable font styles include Book Antiqua, Courier, Palatino, or Times New Roman. Use space and a half or double spacing. Using this spacing, your paper will be four to six pages in length. Please print on both sides of the page, if possible, and do not use cover sheets.

Maintain one-inch margins on the top, bottom and both sides. Paragraphs will be indented five spaces. Give your paper an appropriate title and provide an extra space between the title and the body of your text. Number the pages. Include your name and the date. Spell-check your work and proof-read your paper after you spell-check to catch any style, syntax, or spelling errors. The word count for this paper should be 800 to 1000 words.

This assignment is due on **Wednesday, October 19**. **Plagiarism in this paper will result in NO CREDIT.**

Specific Instructions

Content. This paper will address the question, “Is the size and rate of growth of the human population a problem for humans and the environment?” Use the information in Chapters 9 and 10 of Miller (2005), cite at least one of the “Guest Essays” on the text book website (<http://biology.brookscole.com/miller14>) in Chapter 10, and one literature citation to address these points:

1. Describe, in factual terms, the current state of the human population and its growth rate. Include information on developed and developing nations. What are the projections for the size of the human population in the future?
2. Describe why environmentalists believe the current human demographic patterns are cause for concern. State why other thinkers on this issue do not believe there is a problem. Give examples that illustrate each of these two views.
3. Describe in factual terms how animal populations are limited in nature. Discuss the relationship of these natural population growth factors to human population growth.
4. Describe the factors that limit human population growth. What measures are necessary to slow human population growth? Give two examples of countries that provide models for limiting population growth. Are either of these models applicable to other nations?
5. What are the benefits and drawbacks of taking action to control the rate of human population growth?

6. In your opinion, is human population growth a problem for humans and the environment? Why or why not? Be sure to support your point of view with facts or expert opinion. Do not use inflammatory language. Be sure your argument is logical and well-designed.

Attach, to your paper, the article from the literature that you cite!

Use appropriate facts, data, and terminology in your paper. Be factual and do not give value judgments. Avoid redundancy or vague sentences. Be sure each sentence includes new data or ideas that *move the discussion forward*.

Style, Construction, and Organization. This paper must exhibit good sentence construction, syntax, and punctuation. If you are unclear on what constitutes correct writing style, please consult a style manual, such as *A Manual for Writers* by Kate Turabian (1987). The full citation for this book is: Turabian, Kate L. 1987. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. This book is available in the Spartan Bookstore and in the writing section of most bookstores.

Here are a few important points on sentence construction:

Every sentence must have a subject and verb. Do not submit incomplete sentences.

Include only one or two ideas in a sentence. Avoid “run-on” sentences. If your sentence is too long, divide it into two.

Each sentence must have a purpose and must advance the discussion.

Use active verbs that require a subject be named. In other words, avoid the passive tense.

An example of a passive sentence is, “A pamphlet will be written.” State who will do the writing to make this an active sentence, such as, “The City Fire Department will write a pamphlet describing safe evacuation procedures.” This new sentence also includes valuable explanatory information.

This paper must also exhibit good organization and paragraph construction. Each paragraph must communicate a complete idea with supporting information to clarify or support that idea. Each paragraph must advance the purpose of the paper in a logical fashion, until the title of the paper has been adequately addressed. Here are a few important points on paragraphs:

Each paragraph must have a topic sentence that introduces the topic to be covered in the paragraph.

The following sentences must provide data, arguments, or other information that support or elaborate on the paragraph’s topic.

The next paragraph must follow logically from the last and must begin with a transition that moves the reader from the last paragraph into the new one.

The final paragraph should briefly summarize the material in the paper and smoothly close the topic.

Summarizing, Paraphrasing, Quoting, and Plagiarism. In this paper, you will be taking information written by another author and you will communicate that information in your paper. The goal of the paper is to summarize the material, distilling the most important information in order to make your points. After you

locate the most important information, then you must convey the material *totally in your own words*. This is paraphrasing. Paraphrasing is what you are doing if you were to describe to a friend the information you read in your textbook.

If your paraphrase is close to the exact words used by another author or if, in fact, you use the exact words of an author without citing that author, then you are plagiarizing. Plagiarizing is a form of stealing and is a punishable offense at San Jose State University. Read the San Jose State University policy on plagiarism on line or in your catalog. This course will follow that policy. You **MUST** avoid plagiarizing. Changing one or a few words in another author's sentence is not paraphrasing; it is plagiarizing. If you must use language close to another author's words, cite that author in the text of your paper. If you use an author's exact words you must **quote** them and then cite the author. To cite the author, give the author's name and the publication date in the text and then provide a full bibliographic reference at the end of the paper. Be sure to contact me if you are not sure you are plagiarizing.

References Cited

Miller, G. Tyler. 2005. *Living in the Environment, 14th Edition*. Belmont (California): Brooks/Cole, Wadsworth Group, Thompson Learning, Inc.

Miller, G. Tyler. 1996. *Living in the Environment, Ninth Edition*. San Francisco: Wadsworth Publishing Company.