

Writing Assignment 2: Energy for the Future

This assignment is quite different from the last two. This is a three-part assignment in which you will conduct independent research, work with a group, discuss the results of your work with the group, and write a paper. Carefully read each part of this assignment and note the deadlines for each portion.

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is three-fold:

1. To develop your ability to rationally evaluate a controversial issue;
2. To introduce you to conducting useful research on the internet;
3. To have you work with a group as part of developing your paper.

For this paper, you will examine pros and cons of different energy sources to meet our future energy needs. You will be assigned a specific, non-fossil fuel energy resource to research via the internet. You will exchange the information you gather with others researching the same energy source to help you answer question 1, below. Then, you will discuss your findings with people researching other energy sources to help you answer question 2. Based on your findings and that of your group members, you will write a 2 to 4-page paper. Use space and a half or double spacing. All style criteria for the first formal writing assignment apply to this paper.

Your paper will address this primary question:

Is there a single energy source, a "silver bullet", that will take the US (and the world) beyond the current fossil fuel era?

In answering this question, you will address these questions:

1. What are the pros and cons of the specific energy source you researched? Evaluate the pros and cons based on these criteria:
 - a. Renewable vs. non-renewable
 - b. Human health costs/risks
 - c. Risks to other species and other environmental resources
 - d. Amount of carbon dioxide generated
 - e. Affordability
 - f. Availability in the US
2. Can your energy source stand alone to meet future energy needs? Why or why not? To answer this consider:
 - a. The different uses of energy,
 - b. The expected demand for energy in the US and the world in the future,
 - c. The pros and cons of your energy source with respect to a and b, and the criteria in question 1.

3. How would your energy resource fit into a diversified mix of non-fossil fuel energy sources to meet our energy needs? Consider what role your resource might play, if any, and what other energy resources you recommend having as part of set of energy sources.

Part 1. Informational Summary.

Due November 8; worth 5 points.

1. Using internet sources and Miller (2007), collect information on the pros and cons of the energy resource you were assigned. Locate and use at least **three** reputable internet sources that have the information you need. **Print out a page or two from each source to include with this summary.**
2. Produce an “informational summary” that paraphrases the relevant information from your internet sources and Miller (2007). See the attached format. Be sure to state the energy source you are addressing. Then, give the full URL of each source and the title of the article; under that title list the information using bullet points. Keep the bullet points as brief and factual as possible. Use terms, numbers, and phrases. **Do not use full sentences for this summary.** List each source and the bullet points in succession. You should have at least four references, including Miller (2007). Attach the pages you copied from your web sites to the copy that you’ll turn in to me.
3. Bring 9 copies of this informational summary (without the internet pages) on November 8 to give to your group members. Be prepared to discuss your findings.

Part 2. Paper Outline/Group Discussion

Due November 20; worth 5 points.

1. Using your sources and the new ones you now have, develop an outline for your paper, providing specific information and facts that address the two questions. Cite the sources of the facts in the outline and include a list of references cited in correct bibliographic form. You must use at least four citations.
2. You will join a new group in which each person has researched one of the other energy sources. Bring 6 copies of your outline and give each person a copy.
3. Spend time, as a group, discussing questions 2 and 3: Can your energy source stand alone to meet future energy needs? Why or why not? If not, how would it fit into a diversified mix of non-fossil fuel energy sources?

Part 3. Pro/Con Paper.

Due December 6; worth 15 points.

1. Using the information you have gathered through your research as well as the information collected by students researching the other four energy types, write a paper following the style requirements of the first formal writing assignment.
2. Run your paper through TurnItIn.com (www.turnitin.com) and attach the “originality” report to your final paper. When you go to the site, create a “user profile” if you have not used the site before. If you have used Turnitin.com before, you should already have a user profile. Then, log on to the site. The class ID is 2017739 and the password is earthday. This should take you to the class page, or you may need to click

on the class title, which is *EnvS 001 Fall 07*. You'll see the *Energy for the Future* assignment bar. When you have finished writing your paper and believe you have avoided all plagiarism, click on *submit* to bring your paper into Turnitin.com. Follow the directions to bring in the file with your paper. Run the Originality Report. This may take a few minutes to several hours, depending on the activity on the site. If it's taking a while, come back and check later. Your paper needs to be in the blue or green range to receive credit. Be sure to exclude quotes and your bibliography. To do this, click on the bar with the percentage and color. Your paper will appear. At the top of the page you'll see "exclude quoted" and "exclude bibliography". Click on each of those.

If you are in a higher range, Turnitin will show you where your paper is having trouble. Revise your paper to avoid those problems and run the Originality Report again. You'll need to exclude your first submission. To do this, click on the bar with the percentage and color. Your paper will appear. On the right, find your first submission and click on the small grey "x" at the top of the bar for your paper.

I will not accept papers with overlap greater than blue or green range.

3. Use this format when citing an internet reference:

In-text citation example: (Public Interest Research Groups, 1999)

Full citation example:

Public Interest Research Groups. (1999). Why do we need a strong Endangered Species Act? Retrieved March 18, 2002 from the World Wide Web:
<http://www.pirg.org/enviro/esa/fact.htm> .

Writing Assignment 2: Informational Summary Format

For your Informational Summary, begin by stating the topic you are researching. Next, give the citation for the first website you are using to answer the question. After that, list the bullet points of information you got from *that* website. Then, give the citation for the next website followed by the informational bullets you got from that site. Follow this format for each website you are using in your research. Be sure to put your name and date at the top of each page and number the pages of the summary.

Make 9 copies of your completed informational summary for class. To one of the copies, attach 1-2 pages from *each* of your websites. You will give that copy to me.

Here is a view of how your summary should be structured.

Jody Student
November 8, 2007

Writing Assignment 2: Informational Summary

Energy Source: Nuclear Energy

What are the pros and cons of this energy source and how would it fit into a mix of non-fossil fuel energy sources?

- Internet site 1: California Energy Commission. Year. Title.
 - Pro – Blah, blah
 - Con – Woof, woof

- Internet site 2: Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Year. Title.
 - Blah, blah
 - Woof, woof
 - Stand alone – blah, blah

- Internet site 3: Author. Year. Title.
 - Blah, blah
 - Woof, woof
 - Etc.

- Miller, G. Tyler. 2005. Living in the Environment
 - Blah, blah
 - Woof, woof