

Environmental Studies 185 – Environmental Impact Assessment – Spring 2007  
**INITIAL STUDY ASSIGNMENT**

Date due	Component	% of Grade
<del>15 October</del>	<del>Draft Initial Study (6 copies)</del>	<del>20</del>
22 October	Peer Comment Letters	4
29 October	Final initial study/ND/NOP	6
29 October	Presentations	5

**Peer Comment letters: due next week**

- one per groupmate (4 or 5 total –*emailed* to each document’s author)
- one set for me (instructor- *must be hardcopy*)

**FORM:**

- formatted as a **professional letter**
- addressed to the **lead agency**
  - clearly identify the **writer/author** of the Initial Study
- return address/from:
  - an individual affiliated with
    - a citizen’s group, or
    - a “staffperson” from a responsible agency
  - Be sure to include name, address, telephone number, and affiliation

**CONTENT:** Letters should **minimally** briefly address:

- Organization, grammar, and style of document being reviewed
- Completeness of the document:
  - *Adequacy* of project description
  - *Sufficiency* of resource analyses in *identifying* and *analyzing* significant impacts and mitigations,
  - *additional* possible:
    - impacts or
    - mitigations
- Any other additional information that should be included in your peers’ work (including citations where relevant)

\*\*\*Explain the *basis* for your comments, where possible using

- data,
- references,
- expert opinion, and
- facts

\*\*\* You may use *some* of the same text in each letter, but be sure to *tailor each letter to the document you are reading*, and reference *specific* text from the document you are reviewing.

\*\*\**These letters will be read by the document author*, but they will be graded by the instructor (O’Malley). Comment letters *will not affect your classmates’ grades* in any way.

**GRADING:**

The comment letters will be graded on *form, writing style and content*. Each letter may be *two to three* pages in length, but they should be *concise* and constructively *critical*.