

EnvS 001: INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Spring 2007; Dr. Trulio

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2: 800-1000 Word Writing Assignment (worth 10 points)

General Instructions

This second assignment is designed to achieve four 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; 4) teach you how to find and use a peer-reviewed article in your essay.

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 800-1000 words. You will also check your paper for plagiarism with Turnitin.com. The directions for how to do this are on page 2. You can not receive credit for this paper without generating an Originality Report through Turnitin.com.

As with the first writing assignment, this essay is to be written in expository style. Attachment 1 gives an example of how this essay might be organized.

This assignment is due on **Wednesday, March 21**. **Plagiarism in this paper will result in NO CREDIT.**

Specific Instructions

Content. This paper will address the question, “What can be done about the size of our ecological footprint?”

Use information in Chapter 1 of Miller (2007), the report by Venetoulis and Talberth (2005) at <http://www.redefiningprogress.org/publications/2006/Footprint%20of%20Nations%202005.pdf> and one literature citation from a peer-reviewed journal to write an expository essay that addresses these points:

1. Define “ecological footprint” and discuss why this concept is important to sustainable living.
2. What components go into the footprint calculation for a nation? Per capita, what is the range of national ecological footprints from the largest to the smallest? According to Venetoulis and Talberth (2005), what is the relationship of the entire human population’s footprint to the earth’s ability to support us?
3. Compare the total ecological footprint of the entire US population with that of India or China. Discuss the role of population and affluence in the total ecological footprints of nations.

4. Use yourself as an example of how someone in the US could reduce his/her footprint. First, use the Ecological Footprint calculator at <http://myfootprint.org> to calculate your own ecological footprint. What were your scores in the four categories: food, mobility, shelter, and goods/services? What was your total footprint and how many earths would be needed to support the world's human population at your lifestyle? At the end of the quiz, click on "What you can do: Individuals". What actions could you easily take to reduce your footprint?
5. Using your article from the literature, briefly discuss what the author(s) were researching in their paper with respect to ecological footprints? How does their work help us understand the human ecological footprint and what we can do to reduce it?
6. In your opinion, which presents the biggest problem to reaching a sustainable human ecological footprint, human population growth in less developed countries or affluence in more developed countries? Explain your view, supporting your point of view with facts or expert opinion. Do not use inflammatory language. Be sure your argument is logical.

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*.

Checking your Paper with Turnitin.com. As part of this paper, you will turn in the Originality Report you generate through the website, www.turnitin.com. When you go to this site, you will need to follow the directions to first create a "user profile" so that you can logon to the site. If you have used Turnitin.com before, then you should already have a user profile. Then, logon to the site. You will need the class ID and password to join the class. The class ID is 1824138 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 Spring 07*. You'll see the *Ecological Footprint Essay* 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. Your paper needs to be in the blue or green range to receive credit. If you are in a higher range, Turnitin.com will show you where your paper is having trouble. Revise your paper to avoid those problems. If you can print out the Originality Report, please do that and turn it in with your paper.

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.

Example Citations

Miller, G. T. 2007. *Living in the Environment, 15th Edition*. Belmont (California):

Brooks/Cole, Wadsworth Group, Thompson Learning, Inc.

Venetoulis, J. and J. Talberth. 2005. Ecological Footprint of Nations: 2005 Update. Redefining Progress, Oakland, CA. URL:

<http://www.redefiningprogress.org/publications/2006/Footprint%20of%20Nations%202005.pdf> ; Accessed on February 9, 2007.

ATTACHMENT 1: Example Paper Organization.

To help you think about how to unite the answers to the questions, above, into a coherent essay, here is an example of how this paper might be organized. This is just an example approach; use any organization that works for you.

Taming Humanity's Huge Ecological Footprint

The extraordinary impact the human population is having on the planet is being measured many ways. One useful way is the "ecological footprint", an approach to understanding human effects developed by William Rees and Mathis Wackernagel (Miller 2005). According to Miller (2005), the ecological footprint of a person is... (give definition and example). In calculating the footprint of a person or nation, Wackernagel et al. (2002) use these components: ... When adding together the ecological impact of all nations as determined by their footprint, Wackernagel et al. (2002) found... To support people and the rest of the earth's species, this situation cannot be sustained. We must reduce our ecological footprint. To do this, we must understand why our footprint is so large and what factors can have the most effect.

To understand why humanity's footprint is so huge, it is helpful to look at the simple equation for human impact developed by Paul Ehrlich, $I=PAT$ (Miller 2005). According to this equation, human impact (I) is a result of ...

The relative effects of population and affluence on different nation's footprints are well illustrated by comparing the footprint of the US, an affluent nation, to India, a populous nation. ...

Examples at the large and small scale illustrate the factors contributing to the human ecological footprint. An article by Smith and Jones (1999) also provides information on why our footprint is so large. They note that electronics are a growing part of the global human footprint (Smith and Jones 1999). Through their research they found that ...

It is obvious that the global human footprint is due to the accumulated effects of each of the earth's 6.4 billion people. As an example of the footprint generated by someone in an affluent country, I calculated my ecological footprint using the calculator at www.earthday.net. I found that ... Given the areas of greatest impact, I could reduce my footprint by ...

The ecological footprint approach clearly shows that the over-consumptive lifestyles of developed nations and the rapid population growth of developing nations are key components in our massive human impact on the earth. In considering these two primary factors, I believe that the biggest challenge to reducing our global ecological footprint is ...

References Cited

(give full citations for your four sources)